FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN SPEAKS ON ROLE OF ARMED FORCES

PY161650 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1436 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin on the 172d anniversary of the creation of the General San Martin Grenadier Regiment, from Plaza San Martin, Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] The Grenadiers Regiment is the force in which a generation of Argentine heroes were tempered and in which San Martin fought for the cause of American freedom. This is why it is a clear historical landmark we must take advantage of when we speak of the role of the Argentine Armed Forces in the present and in the future. From the very beginning of the creation of the first squadron, General San Martin said of his grenadiers: They are the ethical, political, and professional instrument of the cause of American freedom. On this day when we are celebrating its anniversary, it is appropriate to speak of the need we all feel, and I am sure every soldier feels, and particularly myself, to work to improve the ethical, professional, and political values which will make us fulfill the role assigned to our nation, in the service of the fundamental values of all our people.

I know very well that it is absolutely necessary to understand that our national Constitution, as in all civilized countries on earth, establishes the subordination of the Armed Forces to the powers established by the Constitution. There is no example in the world that can deny this fundamental truth, and only in those nations where this fundamental principle is respected will it have real standing at all levels of international relations. For this reason, when we say this, we are not referring only to democratic principles, but we are also referring to the need we Argentines have for Argentina holding high prestige in the international sphere. Thus it will be respected and will achieve solutions to the great problems that are still adversely affecting us.

I know perfectly well that this fundamental principle also implies an equally fundamental result. I am deeply aware of the responsibility of one whose constitutional powers provide for commanding the Armed Forces of our nation. I also know perfectly well that I am ultimately the only person who is responsible, because although one can delegate one's powers as much as necessary, responsibility cannot be delegated. [applause] Therefore, I know perfectly well that a soldier must discharge his duties by obeying the orders of his commander, the commander must in turn be willing to adequately discharge the mission entrusted to him by law. You must all rest assured that we will act this way.

The Argentine Armed Forces have a democratic structure and training. But this does not mean that they are a deliberative body because the Constitution establishes the vertical subordination of all Argentine people. Deliberative armed forces are characteristic of de facto regimes. Democracy requires disciplined armed forces, in which all its members are ready to assume their obligations and discharge their duties.

However, we are by no means advocating...we do not want soldiers to take refuge in an absurd apolitical technocracy. We do not want indifferent soldiers. We do not want soldiers to be shackled by a certain lack of confidence which at times precludes them from understanding the dynamics of modern societies. On the contrary, we, the Argentina nation, need the fruitful and enthusiastic work of the members of the Armed Forces. We want to see, and we will undoubtedly see, the Armed Forces at the service of the great national objectives so that together we may build the Argentina we deserve. And, following San Martin's objectives, we will work today but in another manner for South American independence.

We want to see the Armed Forces -- and we will accomplish it all together -- included in a national, rational, popular, and democratic plan. We want to see them participating in this march of the Argentines. We are convinced that the Armed Forces must participate in this plan. But I also know well that this participation, the need for the joining of all sectors and the way in which it is achieved, are directly linked to the one path we must all follow, one path: the mutual loyalty between the Armed Forces and the commander in chief appointed by the national Constitution.

I know very well that we Argentines are going to win, that we are going to succeed in fulfilling our objectives. I know perfectly well that we are going to succeed in placing the country again among the first on earth. We are all going to win to the extent in which we succeed in democracy, because one of democracy's main characteristics is that it continuously reestablishes its objectives, and one objective achieved means that there is a higher one to be achieved. We are going to achieve it, but I want to tell you, as president of the nation and as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, that I will not consider the job fulfilled if at the end of 6 years of government I do not see a parade in which plainclothed and uniformed citizens will march arm in arm, singing to the fatherland a song of peace, of security, of tranquillity, of justice, and of liberty.

I know perfectly well that the men in arms are all convinced of this, and for this reason we are living peacefully through this difficult time for the Argentines. The men in arms will play a fundamental role in this stage of the country, and certainly the men of the glorious Grenadiers Regiment cannot be absent.

Grenadiers: subordination and courage.

[Grenadiers' response] (?We trust in the fatherland).

CHILEAN BEAGLE PROPOSAL REPORTEDLY REJECTED

PY161529 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1325 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA) -- A Foreign Ministry source today admitted that Argentina has not accepted a Chilean proposal to extend to 40 miles the jurisdictional line around the disputed islands in the Beagle Channel, but added that this decision "is not new," contrary to a report released this morning. The source said that the Argentine rejection of the Chilean proposal "is a subject that was treated some time ago," and minimized the importance attributed to that matter by the report because "they are part of the dialogue in all negotiations."

The report published today by a metropolitan newspaper states that the Argentine rejection came only yesterday, and that the negotiation was led by Argentine delegates Marcelo Delpech and Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo. This morning's report also said that one of the proposals of the mediation granted the islands to Chile, but limited to 3 miles the jurisdiction of territorial waters, which Chile now wants to extend to 40 miles.

Regardless of the report released by the Foreign Ministry source, it should be recalled that talks among the negotiators resumed yesterday in Rome after a pause which began on 5 March.

The source did not mention it, but it can be assumed that although the decision not to accept the Chilean pretension could have been made earlier, it is probable that the Argentine delegates had taken some steps in Rome yesterday on this matter.

The report released today also stated that important news is expected next week from the Foreign Ministry's economic sector.

Caputo: Report 'Outdated'

PY161925 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1827 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that the report published today by a Buenos Aires morning paper on the rejection of a Chilean proposal within the framework of the papal mediation in the Beagle conflict is outdated. Caputo was referring to a report disseminated by LA NACION on a Chilean proposal to extend to 40 miles the border line surrounding the islands in dispute, a proposal that was reportedly turned down yesterday by the Argentine delegation. Caputo noted that this proposal was presented by Chile 1 and 1/2 months ago and that our country immediately rejected it.

PERONISTS 'CANNOT SUPPORT' DEBT NEGOTIATIONS

PY162000 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] (DYN) -- Peronist Deputy Diego Guelar said yesterday that there will be no support from the opposition for the government in its foreign debt negotiations. The Buenos Aires congressman said that "we cannot support something we don't know," an apparent reference to the present lack of clarity surrounding the government's position on the foreign debt. Guelar also stated that the rescheduling of the debt must not "jeopardize economic development or wage levels." He further insisted that the budget and the rescheduling of the debt should not be interlinked but instead treated as separate issues.

CGT ANSWERS PRESIDENT'S SALARY PROPOSAL

PY161803 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Through a note addressed to the president of the nation, the National Labor Confederation [CGT] has stated its position regarding salaries. The note was delivered by Saul Ubaldini, who went to Government House for that reason. Ubaldini said that although the CGT agrees with some of the points proposed by President Alfonsin, there are still some adjustments to be made. The CGT document points out the need to establish a minimum salary with an escalator clause, granted under decent conditions that will be in keeping with the workers' dignity. This salary must be accompanied by the curbing of inflation and the cost of living, and the implementation of an economic policy that serves the citizenry.

CHARGES AGAINST VIDELA, MARTINEZ DE HOZ REVEALED

PY162020 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- Ricardo Molinas, the head of the National Administrative Investigations Board, yesterday announced that by the end of the month he expects to be in a position to reveal the main crimes committed in the transfer of Austral Airlines to state ownership. Charges facing former President Jorge Videla, his Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz, and former Economy Planning Secretary Walter Klein will include malfeasance and abuse of authority, Molinas revealed.

Other cases in Molinas' files include last year's adulterated petrol scandal, the transfer of the Italo-Argentina power utility to state hands, and the grant of a diplomatic passport to Propaganda-2 Masonic lodge leader Licio Gelli. Molinas is also carrying out his own investigations into Argentina's foreign debt and the handling of the 1978 World Cup football championship. The progressive democrat from Santa Fe also gave a preview of his 80-page report on charges relating to highway contracts in the Buenos Aires area, saying: "If the first page surprises you, by the second page you won't know what to say."

BANZER'S CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNMENT REFUTED

PY161430 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] In statements to the press, former Bolivian and ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] President General Hugo Banzer Suarez has termed the country's situation disastrous.

An official government spokesman, Mario Rueda Pena, has reacted by stating the same about Banzer Suarez' administration.

[Begin Rueda recording] Banzer Suarez' administration was really disastrous. The people are aware that [words indistinct]. The human rights commission [words indistinct] reported the existence of five concentration camps in which many Bolivian people were imprisoned, tortured, and murdered. [end recording]

Rueda Pena also said that for the first time in Bolivian history, political repression did not respect mothers and women because scores of them were imprisoned and tortured in the concentration camps.

[Begin Rueda recording] And some of the survivors have scars on their bodies that show they were tortured. [Passage indistinct] various labor union leaders were arrested, imprisoned, or sent abroad. A total of 3,000 Bolivians were exiled. Freedom of the press and of information were totally suppressed. More than 100 journalists were compelled to leave the country, and others were imprisoned. The list is endless. [end recording] In addition, Rueda Pena referred to the foreign debt contracted by Banzer's administration as a response to Banzer's charge that the present government has increased the figure and that it is responsible for the crisis.

[Begin Rueda recording] Banzer increased the foreign debt to $4 billion. Therefore, the people wonder where [words indistinct]. In conclusion, dictator Banzer has a considerable personal forture, the origin of which nobody has yet been able to satisfactorily explain. Therefore, we would like to know what moral authority dictator Banzer has to [words indistinct]. [end recording]

TROTSKYITES WIN IN UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

PY170240 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 16 Mar (AFP) -- The Revolutionary Workers Party (POR), which is Trotskyite in orientation, has achieved a surprising victory in student elections held at the main national university. The POR's victory means a new grade in the ascent that the Trotskyites have experienced in the last 12 months.

Three Trotskyite trends are today part of the department federation and the largest factory union of the sector. The Siglo XX Miners Union, which is considered the most aggressive of the country and which enjoys great influence among miners, is also controlled by Trotskyites.

By supporting the San Andres University Revolutionary Union (URQS), the POR beat, by about 5,000 votes, the formulas supported by the Socialist Party One (PS-1) and by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), headed by Bolivian Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora.

PMDB CRITICIZES FIGUEIREDO SPEECH ON ELECTIONS

PY161319 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Opposition parties reacted quickly to the speech delivered last night by President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo. Reporter Carlos Rodrigues has interviewed PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] National President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes in Brasilia.

[Begin Rodrigues relay] PMDB National President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes has reacted to the speech President Figueiredo delivered to the nation last night in which the president of the Republic defended the election of his successor by the Electoral College. Guimaraes said that the holding of indirect elections through the Electoral College would cancel the right to vote of more than 60 million Brazilians who have registration cards in their hands and who want to elect their next president.

Guimaraes termed Figueiredo's speech frustrating, and voiced assurances that direct elections will be held.

Deputy Guimaraes and the other PMDB leaders have begun contacts with congressmen and PDS [Social Democratic Party] leaders asking greater support for the Dante de Oliveira Bill establishing direct elections for the president of the Republic. [end relay]

Since the Planalto Palace is opposed to holding direct elections now, it is expected that opposition parties will begin a new and broader campaign for the approval of the Dante de Oliveira Bill.

Guimaraes said that it is a tradition of the Senate to support the decision of the Chamber of Deputies where -- according to him -- the Dante de Oliveira Bill will be approved. In this regard, he held a meeting with Vice President of the Republic Aureliano Chaves, who will leave for the United States today. In that meeting, Chaves clearly stressed his position supporting direct elections.

[Begin Rodrigues relay] The presidential succession and direct elections were the main subjects discussed between PMDB National President Guimaraes and Vice President Aureliano Chaves. Guimaraes told Chaves that the Dante de Oliveira Bill for direct elections will be approved in the Chamber of Deputies and that the Senate tradition -- never rejecting a decision by the Chamber of Deputies -- will also prevail, because he counts on the vote of more than two-thirds of the deputies.

Guimaraes stressed the importance of the vice president's position for direct elections, especially when Chaves said that if he were a deputy or senator, he would vote for the Dante de Oliveira Bill. [end relay]

BOMBINGS, VIOLENT DISORDERS REPORTED IN SANTIAGO

PY180115 Paris AFP in Spanish 1359 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 17 Mar (AFP) -- The police have reported that at least seven persons were injured and dozens arrested as a result of attacks that were carried out in the predawn hours in different areas of Santiago, Valparaiso, Concepcion, and San Antonio.

The coordinated and simultaneous attacks, which have been claimed by the self-styled Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], started in the late hours of Friday night with an attack against a downtown arms shop when an armed commando made up of five unidentified persons broke into the shop and took pistols, rifles, and ammunition. At midnight, a series of 30 bomb attacks against substations, power pylons, and shops that caused blackouts in several Santiago areas were followed by violent disorders in suburban areas, where there was a clash between settlers and police. During the incidents, a minor was seriously injured. In San Luis, six persons were injured with the broken glass that was strewn by plastic bomb explosions.

The Carabineros Metropolitan Area Command has issued a statement noting that the bomb explosions have caused considerable damage to property.

Press reports note that groups of residents of the El Cortijo and other poor areas went out on the streets and were repressed by the Carabineros militarized police. It has been reported that in the El Cortijo neighborhood alone 15 persons were arrested while in some elegant Santiago neighborhoods the constant rattling of machine gun fire was heard until the early hours of Saturday morning as the police carried out a gigantic operation throughout the different communities.

In Valparaiso, located 140 km northwest of Santiago, a powerful explosion was heard near the Catholic University building, while in Vina del Mar two attacks caused some power failures. In Concepcion, 530 km south of Santiago, three attacks left vast sectors of this industrial town and the nearby Talcahuano Port without electricity. In San Antonio, 100 km west of Santiago, there was an explosion on the main street of the town.

The so-called FPMR has issued a press communique in which it notes that the attacks that have been carried out are part of a new offensive in its struggle to end the military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet.

BEAGLE NEGOTIATOR DENIES ARGENTINE STATEMENT

PY172130 Paris AFP in Spanish 1640 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Coronel Ernesto Videla, chief of the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation, today stated that the Chilean military government is determined to resolve the dispute over the Beagle Channel as soon as possible.

During a telephone conversation from Rome with the newspaper LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, Videla denied rumors from Buenos Aires reporting that it is the Chilean Government's intention to give less impetus to the negotiations. He noted: Our mind is at ease since we have, and continue, to offer our maximum cooperation so as to arrive at a prompt solution to the dispute. In this regard he noted that Chile accpeted within the established deadline the papal proposal that was submitted on 11 December 1980 and that his actions in the last 4 years, and particularly since 23 January, show that Chile is upholding a cooperative attitude. He added that if there is a true will to achieve a prompt solution to the dispute, we should be able to achieve an agreement soon.

Videla regretted the comments made by an Argentine newspaper which reported that Chile wants to extend by 40 miles the jurisdictional waters that surround the Cape Horn Islands. Videla noted: Despite the fact that by norm we only refer to official statements, I am forced to refer to this serious statement. This is a serious statement because it is false and I would rather not comment about its intention in view of the important stage of the process. The Chilean delegate noted that it is a very irresponsible act to refer to such an important subject with such lightness, and he added he could not disclose the issues that are being discussed at present.

Warned that it was Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo who had referred to the extension of jurisdictional waters, Videla said that he could not believe such a thing. He added that on 23 January, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state, personally requested that the parties keep silent during the development of the present stage of the negotiations. On Friday, Caputo admitted in Buenos Aires that Argentina had rejected a Chilean proposal to extend Chilean jurisdictional waters in the southern zone. Caputo asserted that the incident took place 45 days ago.

GOVERNMENT ON STATE COUNCIL STUDY OF PARTIES LAW

PY171922 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The government has denied that it is ignoring the study that the Council of State is making on the draft law on political parties. It said that, on the contrary, the government assigns the greatest importance to the work of that body. This clarification was made in a communique released to the public by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency.

The document says that press reports (?express) concern that the executive branch may submit the draft law on political parties to the Government Junta without taking into account the work of the Council of State. The government statement explains that the president, in his speech on 11 March, said that it is considered possible that the political parties law will be submitted to the Government Junta during the current 6-month period. It says that obviously this statement demonstrated that the president cannot commit himself to submit draft laws to the Government Junta at a certain date while they are being studied by the Council of State, and also [words indistinct] and the observations which citizens think it appropriate to make.

It is thus emphasized that the government can in no way be accused of ignoring the work being carried out by the Council of State. On the contrary, the government assigns the greatest importance to the work of the Council.

JUNTA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR ANTITERRORIST LAW

PY171703 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] During a regular session, the Government Junta changed the characteristic of the draft law determining terrorist behavior and objectives from extremely urgent to simply urgent. The decision was made because of the complexity and importance of the bill, and the need for the joint commission studying it to have access to more background material. The deadline for submitting the antiterrorist draft law was 27 March, but the Government Junta has now decided to extend it to 31 May.

NAVY CHIEF INAUGURATES LEGISLATIVE YEAR

PY161545 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has inaugurated the 1984 legislative year in a ceremony held at hall N 4 of the Diego Portales Building. The ceremony was attended by the other members of the honorable Government Junta as well as high-ranking officials.

Explaining the separation of state powers, Admiral Merino emphatically reiterated that we do not take political records into account and that it is not right for the people to learn about disagreements that may exist. Merino added that since those who wear uniforms are also human, they may also have different points of view, but we will never forget that our strong unity can never be shattered by siren songs. He pointed out that although sporadic events may make the task they have undertaken difficult and sometimes unrewarding, success lies in unity.

Admiral Merino reiterated that they are quite conscious of their independence, adding that we exercise a power that has a vital political importance and only history will show what we have done to fully fulfill our duty.

He pointed out that our current challenge is related to the political parties statutes, which we will analyze this year once the executive branch has adopted the necessary measures.

CNT ISSUES PLANS FOR 27 MARCH NATIONAL PROTEST

PY162030 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The National Workers Command [CNT] today issued instructions for the national day of protest to be held on Tuesday, 27 March, in a statement entitled "Chile Protests for Chile." The CNT notes that the great peaceful protest marches held in 1983 will lead the way to national liberation. We want to continue with and expand this struggle aimed at achieving a new historic destiny for Chile.

(Jorge Millan), representing the CNT, appealed to all Chileans to participate in a peaceful protest on 27 March. [Begin (Millan) recording] We call on all Chileans to actively participate in this peaceful protest with the objective of denouncing the deep moral crisis and general corruption that has resulted in the loss of values that have always guided our national leaders. You can protest in the following manner: by not sending your children to school; by not making any purchases; by not undertaking any proceedings at private or government offices; by beating pots and pans or honking car horns, or by playing music between 2000 and 2030; by holding union meetings during lunch breaks; by holding neighborhood meetings to discuss demands which will be submitted to the CNT; by holding student meetings in all schools and universities. [end recording]

SOVIET VESSEL MAKES EMERGENCY CALL AT VALPARAISO

PY161539 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet fishing vessel [name indistinct] had to make an emergency port call at Valparaiso. Reports from Valparaiso said that the vessel was fishing beyond Chilean jurisdictional waters when it had an emergency and the captain, who was not identified, requested permission and was authorized to enter Chilean waters to leave one of the members of his crew who needed urgent medical assistance. Once this was done, the Soviet vessel sailed back into international waters. This is the first time since 1973 that a Soviet vessel has anchored at a Chilean port.

DEFENSE MINISTER TOURS CAQUETA, WARNS REBELS

PA161321 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Florencia -- Calm has returned to Florencia 36 hours after the attack by an M-19 [19 April Movement] column. The inhabitants have returned to their work as usual.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros D'Acosta has inspected the (Buanambu) Battalion and the Army's No 12 Operational Command. He warned that if the subversives continue defying the Armed Forces and the government, they will receive blows like that dealt to the M-19 in its suicidal action.

At the same time, General Matamoros did not rule out a continuation of the peace talks and asked the subversives to demonstrate that they are sincere. He expressed surprise at the guerrillas' violent responses to the government when everyone is aware of the efforts it is making to consolidate peace in Colombia.

Government Minister Alfonso Gomez and Communications Minister Noemi Sanin also traveled to Caqueta with the defense minister to study the state of siege in the area. They said that the government would not abandon its peace efforts and that the dialogue with the guerrillas will continue until an agreement is reached.

ARMY, M-19 REBELS CLASH IN GABINETE TOWNSHIP

PA181455 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Florencia, Caqueta -- Troops of the Army's No 12 Operational Command and rebels of the 19 April Movement, M-19, have clashed in the past few hours, according to the authorities. Initial official reports indicate that two soldiers were killed, and two wounded, while five rebels were killed in the clash, which took place in the township of Gabinete. This subversive group is part of the group that occupied the city of Florencia on Wednesday and is led by Gustavo Arias Londono, alias Boris. The Florencia Army Command has reported that land and air operations using helicopter gunships are continuing to pursue the guerrillas.

NATIONAL REGISTRAR REPORTS ELECTION COUNT

PA181531 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] According to the latest report by the National Registrar, the total number of votes cast in last Sunday's municipal and provincial elections totaled 5,196,939. The vote count according to parties was: 2,842,330 votes for the Liberal Party; 2,042,973 votes for the Conservative Party; 106,304 votes for the Democratic Front; 21,440 votes for the Revolutionary Independent Worker Movement, MOIR, United Popular Front, FUP coalition; and 165,931 votes for other parties or movements. Of the 5,196,939 votes, 5,178,978 were valid.

STATE OF EMERGENCY, SECURITY ZONES DECREED

PA170412 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Quito, 16 Mar (AFP) -- President Osvaldo Hurtado has declared a state of emergency throughout Ecuador in response to the continuing strikes in the eastern province of Napo-Pastaza and in Esmeraldas Province, which are having ill effects on the national economy.

President Hurtado met with several cabinet members this evening. After a briefing on the strike situation in Napo-Pastaza Province, in the northern part of the eastern Amazon region, and in Esmeraldas Province by Secretary of State Vladimiro Alvarez [as received], the president declared a state of emergency.

In addition to the state of national emergency, the executive decree makes the provinces of Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas security zones, and therefore constitutional guarantees within those jurisdictions are suspended.

Napo-Pastaza Province began a strike on 27 February. One of the demands is to obtain profits from the production of oil. The government has rejected this demand, claiming that the income received from the sale of crude is slated for the payment of the foreign debt and other large-scale development programs.

A communique issued by the ministers of government and defense states that as of this evening, along with the suspension of constitutional guarantees, a curfew has been established in the striking provinces. It will be in effect from 2200 until 0600, during which time the movement of people and vehicles is prohibited. Only people who possess a safe-conduct issued by the area's military commander will be allowed to travel during the curfew. Demonstrations and mass gatherings on streets and squares also are prohibited.

The decree also forbids people from carrying weapons and places all public services under military control. In addition, the document bars all civilians, except technicians and authorized personnel, from the oil installations and the systems that supply and transport fuel.

The president's decree states that the production of oil has significantly decreased, therefore reducing oil exports at a time when Ecuador is in dire need of foreign trade to keep its production activities afloat.

Commission To Probe Situation

PA171621 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] (Luis Mejia Montes de Oca), a member of the high-level commission that will seek a solution to the strike problems in Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces, has said that there has been a great opening and sensibility -- particularly on the part of the finance and natural resources ministers -- with backing from the president of the Republic, who readily agreed to create the commission to seek means to make more revenue available to Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces as well as the country's eastern region.

[Begin (Mejia) recording] The meeting with this minister [not further identified] was very useful. He has actually demonstrated a high degree of sensibility by trying to find solutions to the problems, despite the difficult fiscal situation.

Following a 2-hour meeting, he accepted the Budget Commission's [Comision de Presupuesto] initiative and agreed to appoint a high-level commission composed of the natural resources minister, the finance minister, legislator Severo Espinoza, and myself.

This commission will begin work immediately after Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces suspend the strike [as heard]. It will draft a plan to solve the problem, I should say, to provide more revenue for Napo-Pastaza Province, Esmeraldas Province, the Amazon provinces, and the rest of the country's provinces as well.

The commission was formed immediately, as I said, and the Budget Commission designated the two legislators. The commission also enjoys the blessing and backing of the president of the Republic. As is known, the president is a co-legislator because he can (?veto) or sanction a bill or decree issued by the National Chamber of Representatives or Congress.

That is why we went to talk with the executive branch following the naming of this high-level commission. Personally, I feel that the way has been opened, and by Tuesday we expect to be able to submit the definitive bill to make it possible not only to solve the problems of these provinces but to cover the financial deficit of the National Participations Fund [Fondo Nacional de Participaciones]. [end recording]

Esmeraldas Continues Strike

PA172214 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Esmeraldas -- The strike in Esmeraldas Province, which was declared by the people of Esmeraldas City, is in its 3d day today. A large assembly today confirmed the decision to continue the strike until the government meets the demands of Esmeraldas and Napo-Pastaza Provinces.

A march was held this afternoon in which empty pots and pans were carried. It was attended by hundreds of women from Esmeraldas who were protesting hunger and poverty. The only road linking Esmeraldas with the rest of the country has been blocked with large tree trunks at Quinde and La Concordia. Traffic to the city and province of Esmeraldas is thus blocked.

The president of the strike committee, (Luis Lopez Estupinan), made the following exclusive statement to Voz de los Andes:

[Begin recording] This morning a huge crowd of workers and people from all walks of life, including a large number of women from Esmeraldas who have joined this provincial strike, marched through the city's metropolitan and suburban areas, showing the monolithic attitude -- which will not and cannot waiver -- of those of us who are engaged in the provincial strike at Esmeraldas.

This afternoon -- within a few minutes -- we will hold a grand assembly to adopt important decisions regarding the strategy we will follow to maintain the full stoppage of activities. We will also discuss some suggestions and requests we have received from the mediating commission of the National Congress in Quito, which is headed by legislators Severo Espinoza and (Luis Mejia Montes de Oca). Following the installation of the expanded assembly of the strike committee, we expect to have some important resolutions for release to the provincial and national press to further report on our activities and the development of the strike. [end recording]

Government Minister Urges Calm

PA180448 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0101 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Speech by Government and Justice Minister Vladimiro Alvarez Grau; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The Government has always been receptive to the concerns and aspirations of the people, and above all it has always sought solutions within the framework of the country's economic reality.

This willingness to hold dialogue has been demonstrated at the meetings held with groups representing all of the country's sectors, and most recently at the meetings in Napo-Pastaza Province in the towns of (Laguairios), (Francisco de Orellana), Coca, (Sasha), Shushufindi, and others. There, clamly and sensibly, it was possible to resolve their demands. Consequently, all of those towns decided to drop the aggressive attitudes they had assumed.

Then, a top-level commission was (?finally) sent and 30 of the 31 demands made by the organizers of the strike were resolved. However, the demand by certain leaders that laws be approved directly affecting petroleum reveneus, which would cause a hike in the price of petroleum throughout the country, could not and cannot be accepted by the government. This would be detrimental to the unified economic structure of the Ecuadoran state.

Revenues generated by oil resources and those from electrical centers and other installations of national interest belong to the country and should be used to finance the national budget, to take care of local, provincial, regional and national needs, and to carry out the large-scale projects that the government has undertaken.

We cannot, gentlemen, allow the feudalization of the state. It is the government's obligation to defend the unified nature of our political system, and to prevent any deterioration of public finances that all of the Ecuadoran people would have to make up for through the imposition of new taxes.

There is a vast difference between a request made through the proper channels and one made with a violent attitude, which is not in keeping with the democratic spirit of Ecuadoreans, such as that which occurred several days ago when in a criminal action criticized by the entire country the pipeline that is used to transport one of our most important resources was blown up with dynamite, bridges were destroyed, and there were even plans to destroy an oil well.

Even more deplorable is the fact that an individual who was thought to be responsible for the sabotage of the oil pipeline was arrested after all legal formalities were fulfilled, but was subsequently released by orders of the mayor of Tena, who is a member of the strike committee, thus hindering justice and irresponsibly using a writ of habeas corpus due to pressure by those who promoted the [words indistinct].

The government cannot remain impassive when a province is brought to a standstill to demand the construction of two bridges, and then toward this end six bridges are destroyed; or when more allocations are demanded from oil revenues, and then toward this end the oil pipeline is blown up, keeping the oil production down, depriving the country of millions of sucres, and endangering the oil wells that are a source of income for the country, which could suffer irreparable damage and compromise the country's future for many years.

It is, therefore, surprising that it is precisely the political parties and electoral alliances that are vying for power in the runoff elections and that will take over the presidency in 5 more months that are directly or indirectly promoting the strikes in Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces. They would have the most to lose if the government were to yield to the economic demands that have been made.

The national government reiterated its call for a dialogue, to which it has always been open, as an appropriate way to find solutions to the economic and political problems. But once the dialogue failed, the president of the Republic was forced to establish, according to the Constitution, a state of national emergency in Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces. As a result, with the intervention of the Armed Forces and the National Police, since early this morning traffic was resumed and the bridges repaired on the Quito, Bacza, (Laguairios), and Coca roads, and consequently the services needed for oil production to be resumed smoothly were restored.

In Esmeraldas, all public services are operating, military protection has been given to private businesses, and normal traffic has resumed on roads and highways.

The government would like to lift the state of emergency as soon as possible, but it needs the cooperation of all Ecuadoreans to do so, to harmonize regional and national needs, and to harmonize the needs and aspirations of the towns within the possibilities of our economic reality.

Fellor countrymen, I urge all of you to maintain the calm and composure needed to fulfill our belief that only in a peaceful atmosphere will we be able to work for the good of the community.

VICE PRESIDENT ROLDOS TRAVELS TO CANADA

PA172156 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos today traveled to Montreal, Canada, to participate in a conference on Latin American problems. The meeting is organized by the Canadian Foundation for Peace and Development, the Latin American Human Rights Association, and other Canadian and U.S. organizations. The topics include the prospects for a political solution of the Central American conflict, alternatives to democratization in the Southern Cone, and cooperation and coordination of actions between the United States and Latin America.

The Ecuadoran vice president is scheduled to return on Sunday, 18 March.

BRIEFS

INCREASED OIL SALES -- Ecuador is currently negotiating with several international firms for long-term contracts on a 30,000-barrel-per-day excess of crude. Ecuador currently has long-term contracts with Sunk Yong, a Chinese oil firm which recently increased its purchase of 15,000 barrels per day to 20,000 barrels per day; Coastal, which purchases 36,000 barrels per day (20,000 through direct sales, and 16,000 through exchange agreements); Voest Alpine, which purchases 12,000 barrels daily; and Rescor, which purchases 10,000 barrels daily. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 84 p 13 PA]

PRESIDENT VIEWS CABINET RESHUFFLE, STRIKE

PY191109 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0145 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 17 Mar (EFE) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde today announced that one or two ministers will be replaced, although he gave no names, and reiterated his confidence in Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb. In the economic area, Belaunde noted that minor changes may be introduced in the government's policy. He explained that a series of alternatives will be adopted to continue the implementation of the existing projects and to mitigate the hardship of the Peruvian people. Belaunde made these statements after visiting the highway construction projects in Lima.

The president also criticized the general strike decreed by the four Peruvian labor organizations for 22 March, saying that it is "an absurd, purposeless, and unjustifiable action that will further impoverish the country." He added that the government will render services on the day of the strike to allow the workers to report to work. The labor department has declared the strike illegal.

SCHWALB ON GAS DEPOSIT, OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING

PY171716 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana stated after the cabinet meeting today that a new gas deposit, with an estimated output of 23 million barrels [as heard] per day has been discovered in the Sepahua area. This is the statement he made following the cabinet meeting:

[Begin Schwalb recording] The president will attend the initiation of the work of the Belco Company on the continental shelf. A big drilling platform has arrived there and is being put in place. It will start drilling work in a few days. Since this work is important in the search for petroleum reserves on the continental shelf, the president has announced that he plans to be present on that important occasion. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER ON POLICE ATTACKS ON NEWSMEN

PY171708 Lima Radio Programs del Peru in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The interior minister has stated that police ill-treatment of newsmen during the march staged by the inhabitants of the Cono Sur district occurred under fortuitous circumstances. Percovich Roca stated that Interior Ministry officials have the best intentions of giving support to the media.

[Begin Percovich recording] Regarding the reports on alleged violent actions by the police forces against newsmen, I can only say that the Interior Ministry has given, and is constantly giving, instructions not only to respect the personal integrity of newsmen -- as well as that of all citizens -- but that the police forces should also grant them all necessary facilities to fulfill their task of reporting correctly and truthfully. But it often happens that the newsmen, wanting to report as truthfully as possible on events, place themselves in the very middle of disturbances and actions. Unfortunately, when the police are doing their duty, newsmen may become the victims of the measures that the police forces must take, not because such measures are intentionally aimed against them or, for that matter, against any citizen in particular. If there is any specific case of an attack on or violence against a newsman, the Interior Ministry is always ready to listen and to conduct proper investigations. [end recording]

AIR FORCE COMMANDER: 'COLD WAR' BLOCKS DIALOGUE

PY171915 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The commander of the Air Force has said that in this country a cold war seems to have blocked the dialogue leading to a renewal of institutionalization. Lieutenant General Manuel Buadas said that this threatens to be turned into a hot war at any moment. The general added that there is an impression that the Republic has been broken up: on one side there is the government and the Armed Forces and on the other the political leaders, while the Uruguayan people are looking on. The Air Force commander was speaking at the inauguration of a plaza near the Municipal Stadium. He confirmed that the elections will be held this November and that power will be handed over in March 1985, but on the condition that mechanisms exist to guarantee democracy. Buadas appealed for the unity and understanding of all true Uruguayans and said that they should show trust and that this is the time for dialogue, harmony, understanding, and good will, in a climate of social peace and mutual respect.

He asked if the legal and constitutional framework of the country does not require calmness and, if that is the case, he asked, from where did the disturbances come that were reigning toward the end of the decade. He asked what would happen if the authorities, who would again be in the government, were to find themselves submerged in similar circumstances. He said that the 10 years of military rule were an attempt to improve, with clearsightedness and firmness, all that had to be renewed in order to strengthen the roots of the nation. Lt Gen Buadas also mentioned the proscriptions. He said that there should be an end of the proscriptions, but only after we have reached democracy.

PC LEADER CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS

PY170225 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Jorge Batlle has denied rumors about possible changes in the Sanguinetti-Tarigo formula. The Colorado Party [PC] leader said that this rumor is baseless. Batlle also made an evaluation of the national political situation after remarks by Interior Minister Julio Cesar Rapela. Batlle said that the free fluctuation of the U.S. currency will permit the new government after the elections to strengthen the economy with new exports.

[Begin Batlle recording] I am not familar with the course of the negotiations. I do know about the first meeting held by the official delegates of the PC, the meeting held by Sanguinetti and Tarigo with Army Commander General Aranco. The first meeting was general in nature. The PC delegates have not held any new meetings since last Monday. I am not aware of the result of the meetings held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, because I was out of town. The first meeting was of a general nature and the impression I got from Sanguinetti and Tarigo was that they believe that there is an appropriate environment for finding solutions. We do know that leaders of the National Party have held several meetings with representatives of the Armed Forces. However, we are not aware of the results. We assume that important meetings were held, based on the remarks (Alem Berba) made after returning from Spain, where he met with Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. We agree with General Rapela, who said that elections should be held next November and that a search for points of agreement should be made. We believe that the Armed Forces must realize that they should not only fulfill their election schedule but that they must also fulfill something much more important for the country and the Armed Forces. They must quickly reestablish democracy in a peaceful manner so that the new government -- which is going to have to confront very serious economic problems -- can start its administration with a stable institutional organization. [end recording]

EX-PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, PROSCRIPTION

PY171119 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Former President Jorge Pacheco Areco has said that no one person can be more important than the nation. He added that the national elections should be held as scheduled. Pacheco Areco made these remarks during an interview with Radio El Espectador. He went on to say that it is necessary to search for an appropriate environment to establish a constitutional government. He also stated that he is against any kind of proscription and that elections should be held in any event. He confirmed that he supports changes in Fundamental Law No 2 and that he does not know if the Colorado and Batallista Union will support any candidate within the party. In this regard, Pacheco Areco said that this possibility has not yet been discussed.

[Begin recording] [Pacheco] Look, we are really very actively pursuing the holding of these elections. This has been going on for a long time, but the possibility of holding elections are not too clear, which shows that there are problems. But in general terms, what worries me is the need to create a better environment for improving the negotiations for reaching an agreement between the two sides. This agreement between the representatives of political parties and the Armed Forces can lead to a reasonable transaction to start a period of transition which in turn can lead to the supreme objective of full normalization with the reestablishment of a representative democracy. This is a concept in general terms.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Pacheco Areco, how can this agreement be achieved?

[Pacheco] Well, I believe that it will be necessary to have a great deal of good will, a state of collective understanding, serenity, rationality, and a sense of responsibility.

[Reporter] One of the issues being discussed by the Colorado and Blanco Parties is the matter of proscriptions. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Pacheco] Well, you know I am pluralist. I have never agreed with that measure. It is a measure of a political nature related to whole groups. I am still hoping that all proscriptions can be lifted on political leaders and parties so that the traditional course of the nation can be reestablished. However, it is necessary to note, to be consistent with the ideas I advocate in this regard, that the road for returning to normality be gradual. Obviously if all proscriptions on all parties are not lifted, this does not mean that everything will come to a standstill, that the de facto situation will continue indefinitely. We should find the roads more closely associated to our aspirations in this regard.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the elections could be held even if the proscriptions on some political leaders and parties are not lifted?

[Pacheco] Regarding [words indistinct] respectable personalities, it can have a great influence, a great political influence, but what really counts in view of this situation is the country itself. To a certain extent, it is aptly said that a proscription hangs over the country, a proscription which should be lifted, and this is the first priority. What we have to achieve is a state of law, and this has to be achieved along the way. Pressure is now being exerted and this is the price we have to pay to reach the objective. No one, absolutely no one, no matter what his qualities, conditions, or background can be more important than the country itself. [end recording]

PUBLIC SECTOR AUSTERITY PROGRAM OUTLINED

PA160053 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0847 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Caracas, 15 Mar (EFE) -- The Venezuelan people will have to tighten their belts beginning today, as President Jaime Lusinchi has announced the new austerity program to be imposed on the public setor.

The new program, which Lusinchi explains in an extensive document, includes "measures to control and restrict public spending" in an effort to streamline the administration and set the productive machinery back in motion.

According to Lusinchi, the time has come to shift the nation's course and to "abandon all dreams of an artificial paradise," to "put our feet back on the generous ground that is eager to welcome our efforts and commitment."

The president said that the document that was issued yesterday is intended to "improve the public sector and to make better and more honest use of the not so limited resources we still have."

In this redefinition of Venezuelan society, Lusinchi said that because there is so much inequity, "one cannot ask everyone to make an equal sacrifice," and that it would be "unjust and antidemocratic for the poor to shoulder the heavier burden."

"To do it that way would not only insult my conscience as president but would also imply serious risks for the future of democracy in Venezuela."

The document stresses all aspects of routine government spending and recognizes that "it will be a difficult change, which will not occur overnight."

The presidential decree announces the "reorganization, elimination, merger, or dissolution" of organizations, programs, and projects of every kind that are unjustifiable or that do not conform to the set goals or priorities.

It allows the ministers 60 days before their respective reorganization plans are due. All these plans must include a 10-percent cut in all base salaries that exceed 16,000 bolivares (approximately $1,500). The ministry plans must also include a freeze on all employees' salaries in excess of 10,000 bolivares (approximately $770) and the payment of company profits, bonuses, and other benefits "when they are not directly derived from the corporation's actual profit."

"Expense accounts will be reduced," as will "state visits and the number of people sent on them. The amount of overtime hours, and the purchase of goods and equipment such as aircraft and vehicles" will also be curtailed. "The use of official vehicles will be reserved for ministers and directors of the central government, and those officials who occupy similar posts in the local administrations. Those vehicles deemed dispensable will be sold."

The decree refers to a "reduction in the number of national and international events that require government funds, a reduction in the use of credit cards, a revision of voluntary government contributions to national or internatioal organizations, and the president's approval for those contributions already included in the 1984 budget."

The decree adds that the reduction in current expenses mentioned in the decree must be at least 10 percent of each government organization's budget. A commission led by the treasury minister "will oversee the implementation of the measures proposed in the decree."

The treasury minister will be responsible for "conducting a study of the national financial system so as to determine which state financial institutions must be reorganized, eliminated, merged. or shut down."

Article 10 of President Lusinchi's decree orders the reorganization of 25 decentralized orgaizations, including national institutes and corporations such as port, post office, housing, sanitation, trash collection, social security, sports, educational cooperation, and agriculture services.

The Corporation for Development of Small and Medium Industry [Corporacion de Desarrollo para la Mediana y Pequena Empresa]; the state airline, VIASA; the state television channels 3 and 5; the National Salt Enterprise [Empresa Nacional de Sal]; and the Simon Bolivar Center are also among the organizations to be reorganized.

The decree includes the reorganization of the regional development corporations and of the projects in which they have majority interests.

For its part, Article 12 establishes the closing of the following local organizations: The Venezuelan Corporation for Development, the Produce Marketing Corporation [Corporacion de Mercadeo Agricola]; The Naricual Mining Co. [C.A. Minas de Naricu he National Salt Company [Compania Nacional de Sal], and the Agricultural and Livestock Warehouses [Almacenes y Depositos Agropecuarios].

"Until the reorganization plans are approved," Lusinchi will approve any decision on filling vacant posts, contracting special services, raising the salaries of public employees, granting pensions and retirement benefits, holding congresses, and renewing projects that have been stopped.

In conclusion, the president said that the measures will represent an increase of approximately 24,689,000,000 bolivares (approximately $1.8 billion) in government income, an increase that "should appease mistaken but well meaning restlessness."

Lusinchi explained that the sum will be reduced to 8 billion bolivares (approximately $600 million) after pertinent deductions are made. These 8 billion bolivares will go "toward economic recovery, job creation, and social development programs."

He also said that "the reductions in operating expenditures contained in the present decree amount to approximately 10 billion bolivares" (approximately $770 million).

After announcing the decree, President Lusinchi lauded the "exceptionally positive reception that the measures have had," and appeared to be "rationally optimistic about the future."

He recalled that his administration "did not invent these situations; they were already there, just held back," and that these measures "are intended to prevent greater evils."

COSTA RICA'S MONGE HOLDS TALKS WITH ILLUECA

Meets President in David

PA172130 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Luis Alberto Monge and Jorge Illueca, the presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, respectively, have met in David on the occasion of the 29th annual St Joseph's Fair, which the two presidents will open tonight at 2000.

The Costa Rican president arrived at the Enrique Malek Airport in David at 1420, and was welcomed by his Panamanian counterpart, Vice President Carlos Ozores, cabinet ministers, representatives of the Defense Forces, and other officials. The visitor and his retinue were rendered the usual honors at the airport.

During talks over the next 2 days the presidents will discuss the Central American crisis, the Contadora Group peace efforts, the problems between the transport sectors of the two countries, and contraband involving cattle and grain. The regional development project will include a network of roads to all the towns in the interior and other basic works, as well as agricultural and trade development programs. [sentence as heard]

The Costa Rican president is accompanied by his ministers of Foreign Affairs, Presidency, Economy, Public Works, and Transportation.

Signs Joint Declaration

PA181813 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, who have been meeting since yesterday in David, this afternoon signed a joint declaration after several days of discussions on the most important aspects of the international and regional situation and topics of bilateral interest. The two presidents gave special attention to development projects on their common border and to the problems of Central America.

The presidents agreed that regional problems should not be viewed within the context of the East-West confrontation, and they reasserted that only methods which include dialogue, detente, and political negotiation among the conflicting parties offer safe alternatives for the reestablishment of conditions of peace, security, democratic coexistence, and development in Central America.

The presidents agreed on their concern for preserving the national security and territorial integrity of their respective countries, and also reasserted their belief in democratic and representative systems of government and the principles of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states, the peoples' right to self-determination, and political and ideological pluralism. The two presidents also reasserted their determination to intensify their collaboration within the Contadora Group to promote a political agreement for peace, security, and cooperation in the area.

The presidents of Costa Rica, Luis Alberto Monge, and Panama, Dr Jorge Illueca, reiterated the need to suggest a number of initiatives for economic cooperation among the Central American countries, in accordance with the needs and priorities defined by each of them, without conditions or political discrimination.

President Monge and his counterpart Illueca expressed their satisfaction over the extension of the agreement for border commercialization and cooperation, as well as over the magnificent commercial relations between the two nations. They agreed to convoke the Permanent Mixed Commission of the Free Trade and Preferential Exchange Treaty for June and to consider the possibility of including new products in the bilateral treaty. They also discussed possible agroindustrial integration for the additional cultivation and processing of oleaginous palms. Measures were also approved to attack contraband activities along the border without hindering the intensification of legitimate trade between the two countries, and regulations for livestock and agricultural sanitation, among others, were adopted.

NORIEGA DENIES COUP RUMORS REGARDING ELECTIONS

PA161642 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1325 GMT 16 Mar 84

[By Sixto Martinez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces of Panama, has implicitly denied to ACAN-EFE that preparations are under way for a coup d'etat in this country, before or after the upcoming 6 May presidential elections.

Noriega termed "blackmail" the U.S. Senate resolution which conditions military aid to Panama on respect by the Armed Forces for the electoral process and the results of the elections. The general told ACAN-EFE that "whoever wins the elections must receive the presidential sash and his credentials from the Electoral Tribunal, not from the Defense Forces Command Headquarters."

"We are only dutybound to guarantee order. The people will decide who will be their government leaders," Noriega stated, making it clear that the results of the elections will be respected, even if the principal opposition candidate, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, wins.

Regarding rumors of a coup d'etat inspired by the Inouye-DeConcini amendment on military aid, Noriega, the only general of the Panamanian Armed Forces, said that "politicians must talk politics to win votes.

"A government falls only when it does not solve the economic problems of its people," Noriega added. He has been the proponent of "civic action" programs by the Defense Forces to create infrastrucutres in the less-developed regions of the country.

Noriega said that the United States and Panama have a mutual commitment to defend the Panama Canal, as stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which are independent of "the opinion of two senators."

Comments on Military Aid

PA172334 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Arenas-Quebro-Mariato road will be finished in 1985. Here is a report: General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, has carried out a fast-paced working tour of Arenas, Quebro, Mariato, Rodeo Viejo, and Sona in the southern part of Veraguas Province. He was accompanied by ranking members of the local U.S. military command and a group of newsmen.

In Arenas, some 6 hours by road heading into the mountains, Gen Noriega was met by Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Purcell, who explained the work that has been accomplished there.

In Sona, Gen Noriega was interviewed by newsmen and commented on topics of national interest.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Now that elections are around the corner, there is talk of a coup and of a number of situations that are blamed on the Defense Forces. What can you tell us about this? Do you have any idea why this talk is circulating, why speculation about this is rife?

[Noriega] Let us look at this from a positive viewpoint. At Christmastime one talks about toys. [laughter] When school is about to begin, one talks about books. During the baseball season, one talks about the teams that are vying for the championship. Therefore, I think it is only natural for politicians to talk politics now, while seeking votes. I find this very logical in the framework of the way our people behave.

[Second unidentified reporter] Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid has doubts about the law that created the National Defense Force and says that if he rises to power he will create a civilian police force and an army. What do you think about this?

[Noriega] I have profound respect for Mr Arias' ideas, and believe that this also fits into the framework of politics. I believe that just like all the other candidates he has his reasons and logic for thinking this way. However, national problems are not rooted in how the public force is formed. The public force supports the nation and provides security for the nation. A government falls because it cannot provide economic solutions for the people. The people do not live off of the police, they live off the bread and the work that their rulers must provide them. [end recording]

Referring to the possible suspension of military aid to Panama, Gen Noriega said:

[Begin Noriega recording] We must note that these are the opinions of two senators. We, Panama, are not among the countries asking for military aid. We are working within the guidelines of a treaty signed by the United States, which imposes responsibilities on the United States and on us, too. During my visits to Washington I have talked to officials, to patriotic individuals, to conscientious Americans who understand geopolitics and geostrategy. I have not gone there to ask any senator for military aid, because Panama does not need any military aid. [end recording]

SPADAFORA LEVELS CHARGES AGAINST NORIEGA

PA170458 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 15 A

[Statements by Hugo Spadafora, former Panamanian deputy health minister and founder of the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade of Panamanian volunteer fighters in Nicaragua's civil war -- date not given]

[Excerpts] The popular sentiment in Panama is that the country is heading down a blind alley. Noriega and his accomplices are narrowing the chances of reaching a peaceful solution and, as Paredes and others are saying, if we continue this way, there will be no option left but violence.

Noriega has used the National Guard to satiate his political ambitions, egotism, and quest for wealth and power. I, who identified myself as a friend of the National Guard a long time ago, feel that it is opportune to say that, as in Bolivia as few years ago, it is a shame to see the uniforms of the so-called National Defense Force members stained by Noriega's lengthy involvement in drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and political maneuvering.

Rather than a search for solutions, for true national unity, as has been suggested, Noriega hides behind the National Guard in order to satisfy his personal ambitions, which are contrary to the principles of the institution. I believe that National Guard officers and troops have a patriotic duty to strive for peace. It should be demanded that Torrijos' promise be fulfiiled: The men in uniform should return to their quarters and leave political activities to civilians.

We should say now that it is a national shame that an international drug trafficker should travel everywhere representing us, speaking of democracy, of peace in Central America, of the Contadora Group, and so forth, when he is the principal obstacle to democracy in Panama. It is a shame to have to reveal this. There are people who are aware of this here, but they dare not say anything publicly. I will state it plainly: Noriega is mainly responsible for the pressure, intrigue, deals, and plots -- in short, for the corruption of democracy.

Besides this, I personally believe, as do many others (who dare not speak), that some questions need clarification. Noriega resented Torrijos at the time of his death. Noriega knew he no longer was trusted by Torrijos, that the latter was going to fire him from the G-2 post. The National Guard knows this.

Noriega Disdains To Answer

PA182120 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 1

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Excerpt] General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces] was approached by reporters during a luncheon in Sona, after he had made an extensive 70-km tour of southern Veraguas Province. Gen Noriega expressed disdain for the statement made by Dr Hugo Spadafora, who is a member of Commander Eden Pastora's anti-Sandinist guerrillas, which was published yesterday in LA PRENSA. Gen Noriega said he would not waste his time replying to Spadafora's statement, but he did not say whether there was any truth to it.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DESCRIBES RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA AS POOR

PA160444 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has described Costa Rica's relations with Nicaragua as poor, saying that they have cooled as a result of an armed attack on a Civil Guard patrol in Conventillos. The president said that Costa Rica does not want this situation, but the government must ensure that the nation's sovereignty and integrity are respected; thus, it has taken firm positions. On the decisions of the Security Council, President Monge said: I do not believe that those measures should be suspended at this time. This means that Costa Rica will not attend the joint commission meeting and that for the time being, our ambassador will not return to Nicaragua.

The president severely criticized the comments that Commander Eden Pastora reportedly made against the Costa Rican Civil Guard, according to nine members of an ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] column captured on Sunday. The president said that Pastora's situation in our country is very grave. He reiterated that the decision not to allow groups that oppose the Sandinist regime to carry out military actions from our territory still stands. Monge said that no matter what criticism or epithets are applied to us, we will not change our position and we will ensure that our neutrality is respected.

CIVIL GUARD TO RESPOND IF ATTACKED BY ARDE

PA160439 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Johnny Campos, deputy minister of public security, yesterday said during a news conference that there is evidence that Commander Eden Pastora has instructed his men to fire on Costa Rican Civil Guard members rather than allow themselves to be arrested and disarmed. The deputy minister said: We have instructed authorities in the northern sector to act prudently; this does not mean, however, that we are prepared to let them convert Costa Rica into a no-man's land. In other words, the Civil Guard will defend itself if it is attacked and will always act to defend our sovereignty and to enforce our country's neutrality. The deputy minister added that notwithstanding Commander Cero's explanations during a television interview, he has no doubt that the six Civil Guardsmen who claim to have heard Pastora insult the Costa Rican Government were telling the truth. When a Civil Guard Patrol arrested and disarmed a group of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] members in our territory, the Costa Rican Guardsmen heard Pastora instructing them by radio not to surrender to the guardsmen because they represent a government that is more communist than Nicaragua, Johnny Campos said. He added that this demonstrates that Pastora is suffering from battle fatigue and that the setbacks he has suffered in his struggle are causing him to see communists everwhere, even among humble, loyal civil guardsmen.

Col Johnny Campos also reported that he has personally ordered an investigation into the activities of ARDE in San Jose. It is obvious, he said, that the office is used for transmitting military information. I imagine, the deputy minister said, that it is closely involved in logistics support for Commander Pastora's forces. If we allow this, we will be permitting a mockery of the Costa Rican Government's proclamation of neutrality, which involves a commitment to prevent Costa Rica, including its airspace and territorial waters, from being used as a field of operations by parties involved in hostile operations, Campos said.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA DISCUSSES U.S. TROOPS, ELECTIONS

PA162300 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 Mar 84 pp 2, 11

[Part two of interview with President Alvaro Magana by Francisco Romero Cerna, on 13 March -- place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The United States has announced that it will send 2,500 troops to the Honduran-Salvadoran border; don't you think that another Vietnam might erupt in Central America, particularly in El Salvador?

Answer: "I don't think so, for I have been informed that those troops (and there are not 2,500, as foreign media suggest, but between 1,700 and 1,800) are to participate in exercises planned with the Honduran Government. This time, these exercises will be carried out near our border, but I don't see anything more complicated happening in the future. I imagine that there was a greater risk when the exercises were staged near the Nicaraguan border."

Question: Do you have faith in the purity of the 25 March elections?

Answer: "I do. The conditions are very good for clean and honest elections. First, the government has tried to behave in such a way that it cannot be accused of acting either for or against any particular candidate; this is an important guarantee. The Armed Forces have done the same, and all of the political parties are now participating in the Central Electoral Council, which now has a more professionally prepared electoral registry. All of this will permit honest election results. Thus, all of the circumstances have contributed to this objective."

Question: Dr Magana, do you think that U.S. pressure is related to the country's foreign debt?

Answer: "I don't think our foreign debt has anything to do with what might be called 'pressure.' In truth, I have not felt any pressure, though I have participated in an exchange of opinions on common problems in which the United States has said that it wants us to improve in some ways. I can assure you that this has nothing to do with our debt."

Question: How do you think El Salvador will pay its debt to the United States? Don't you think that our national sovereignty might be jeopardized?

Answer: "Not at all. There are various countries (as I pointed out a few moments ago) that are deep in debt. I am sure that, with the favorable 5-year situation that I can already foresee, we will have no problems with our foreign debt. Many of our debts are short-term, and their interest rates are quite low. Thus, making payments on our debt has not been so terrible for El Salvador. Despite the difficulties that we have experienced, we have never been delinquent in meeting our credit commitments, unlike some other countries. So far, we have not renegotiated any loans, but we have made our payments on schedule. This is a significant achievement, of which we Salvadorans should be proud. We have managed to maintain financial discipline and austerity."

ARENA'S D'AUBUISSON LABELS DUARTE 'COUPIST'

PA162149 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 Mar 84 pp 2, 23

[Text] "The Salvadoran National Agency for Special Services, ANSESAL, was a national security information office and not a torture organization," Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, presidential candidate, said in reply to remarks by Jose Napoleon Duarte. ANSESAL was established in 1962 and was sponsored by the United States during the Soviet missile crisis, D'Aubuisson said. Similar offices were opened in other Central American countries, and when the ANSESAL office opened here, "I was not yet an officer because I did not graduate until 1963." Captain Avila and Major Roeder were cadets at the time and could not have had anything to do with General Medrano, D'Aubuisson added.

"What Duarte has said about ANSESAL is ridiculous, and the people know it," D'Aubuisson said. Expanding on the history of ANSESAL, D'Aubuisson said that it was an office to investigate people who could try to destabilize the country at any moment, and to keep records on these people. This information was then passed to the security corps. There were always two or three U.S. advisers or coordinators, D'Aubuisson said.

ANSESAL did not have the personnel to make arrests; this was not its mission, D'Aubuisson said. D'Aubuisson worked for ANSESAL in 1978 and 1979, when its office was in the Presidency, and it had only 17 employees, and he never worked for this office full time. I had another position on the Armed Forces General Staff, he said. D'Aubuisson recalls that ANSESAL, like other intelligence offices, was created when the Central American Defense Council, CONDECA, was established, and it operated under the auspices of the Central American Common Market to safeguard the region's security and to guarantee the peace and development of the area.

D'Aubuisson said that Duarte should be aware of this, but he is trying to concoct a package of lies to confuse the people. Even Duarte had something to do with the G-5 and G-2 Departments when he was president of the Revolutionary Government Junta, he said. D'Aubuisson says that Duarte is accusing him of being a coup promoter, but the real coupist is Duarte himself, who led the people's rebellion in 1972 and who was thoroughly defeated. D'Aubuisson says that he did not personally witness this incident, because he was taking a course in Panama, where he was serving as military aide to the Nicaraguan [as heard] Embassy.

According to D'Aubuisson, Duarte is by nature a coupist politician and was responsible for the deaths of many soldiers when he tried to overthrow General Fidel Sanchez Hernandez. D'Aubuisson said that Duarte is a repressive coupist, a demagogue, a violent man, and a liar. In his book Duarte says that the vote does not mean anything as long as one is in power. He complains about a lack of freedom in the country, but for years he has been running around loose, going wherever he wants and saying whatever he pleases.

ELECTORAL COUNCIL RULING FAVORS D'AUBUISSON

PA180435 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 58

[Excerpts] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, remains the presidential candidate for that party, according to a Central Electoral Council [CCE] resolution, after carefully reviewing documents submitted by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] contesting his candidacy.

The CCE decision is contained in a 16-page document, outlining the council's legal position. The resolution was released at 1920 last night to the local and foreign press. At the time of announcing the ruling in favor of D'Aubuisson, Dr Armando Rodriguez, president of the council, was accompanied by the vice president, engineer Roberto Meza. This morning, the CCE will announce its resolution to interested parties, in this case, representatives of the PDC and ARENA. Last night, it was revealed that the PDC can appeal the ruling favorable to Maj D'Aubuisson next Monday, according to Article 136 of the provisional electoral law.

REPORTAGE ON DEATH OF NEWSWEEK PHOTOGRAPHER

Reportedly Killed in Cross Fire

PA162134 Paris AFP in Spanish 2118 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Mar (AFP) -- John Hoagland, a 35-year-old American photographer working for NEWSWEEK magazine today was killed as he was covering clashes between guerrillas and the Salvadoran Army on the highway to Suchitoto, a city approximately 50 km north of the capital city of San Salvador, official sources have reported. The exact circumstances which lead to his being shot are not known yet, but initial reports indicate that he was caught in a cross fire. Hoagland was experienced in covering the Salvadoran civil war. He had been wounded some years ago.

Venceremos Reports Death

PA170218 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos has just received information on the facts confirming the death of the U.S. reporter John Hoagland from NEWSWEEK magazine. The information states that at approximately 1100 this morning, a group of soldiers from the Salvadoran Army Military Detachment No 5, who were on the road from Oratorio de Concepcion to Suchitoto, attacked foreign correspondents traveling on the road. The newsmen had passed through a group of soldiers of the same detachment earlier and had been warned that they would continue at their own risk. The journalists, however, continued on the road and were ambushed by the soldiers, who opened fire even after realizing that the group was foreign correspondents. These are the facts of the incident that took place this morning and that cost the life of newsman John Hoagland, who was the victim of an ambush carried out by soldiers of Military Detachment No 5 of the Salvadoran Army.

Journalists Protest Killing

PA181537 Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Mar (AFP) -- The Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico (ACEM) and the Federation of Latin American Journalists (FELAP) have demanded that the Salvadoran Government investigate the murder of U.S. journalist John Hoagland and that guarantees be established for journalists. After stating that Hoagland "was killed by Army gunfire," the ACEM said: "We are concerned because the 'death squads' had previously threatened Hoagland, who was then obligated to leave the country temporarily."

FELAP held the Salvadorn government responsible and added that "it is necessary to stop the killing and the relentless persecution of journalists by the regime and its fascist forces."

FELAP said that 19 journalists including Hoagland have been killed in El Salvador and that there is "a systematic suppression of the truth of what is happening in El Salvador and this trampling on freedom of expression and information is unacceptable."

Hoagland was killed by machine gun fire on Friday, 16 March, while covering a clash between the Army and the guerrillas. Haogland had been wounded in 1981 when his car was machine-gunned by the military. Mexican journalist Ignacio Rodriguez, who was accompanying Hoagland, was killed in that incident.

FMLN Blames Army

PA190407 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] the puppet army troops in the vicinity of the city of Suchitoto on 16 March 1984. Attention, here is the recording. On the recording we hear two voices. One is that of an officer, the officer directing the troops at the scene of operations on the battlefield. The other voice is that of the commanding officer. The first voice we hear on the recording is that of the officer ordering the troops on the battlefield itself. Attention. The officer says:

"Listen to me, there is a [word indistinct] here. They were approaching through the bushes; they were civilians and soldiers. Then I opened fire on them, because they did the same to us. Now the Gringo is shouting, a Gringo saying that there has been a death."

Then the commanding officer answers: "Okay, okay, I understood, but who were they?"

The officer on the battlefield answers: "I was not going to look because I do not want to take a look. I still have doubts that they are [words indistinct] could be passing for Gringos."

The commanding officer says: "[words indistinct] look, did this happen on the street?"

The officer on the battlefield says: "No, it is some 50 meters within [as heard] the road."

The commanding officer says: "Within the street, or on the street?" [as heard]

The officer on the battlefield answers: "Some 50 meters on the street. You can hear the [word indistinct] that I have right now."

The commanding officer says: "Okay, remember that a group of journalists were going to pass into Suchitoto. Could it be them?"

The officer on the battlefield answers: "But the vehicles were left in Quebrada Honda: they are up there."

The commanding officer says: "But it is not them?"

The officer on the battlefield answers: "I will go to investigate, but I have to take precautions in going to see. I do not know if they might be [words indistinct]."

The commanding officer says: "Okay, you can maintain your position there. [Words indistinct] that if a Gringo was [word indistinct] it was not one of us."

Salvadoran people, you have heard the recording that is in the hands of the FMLN's Radio Farabundo Marti. This recording is of two enemy officers, who are giving information on the circumstances of Army troops of the 5th Detachment of Tejutepeque, who ambushed a group of journalists, and as a result of this ambush journalist John Hoagland of NEWSWEEK magazine was killed. We reiterate our position of presenting this recording to the directorate of NEWSWEEK magazine as undeniable proof that journalist John Hoagland was murdered by troops of the 5th Detachment of Tejutepeque on 16 March near the city of Suchitoto.

GUERRILLAS CLAIM CREDIT FOR POLITICIANS' DEATH

PA160413 Paris AFP in English 0406 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, March 16 (AFP) -- A guerrilla splinter group claimed responsibility Thursday for the murder here Wednesday of conservative politician Hector Tulio Flores. The same group, "the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front," has announced itself responsible for three other slayings in less than a year -- those of far-right politicians Arnoldo Pohl and Rene Barrios Amaya and U.S. military adviser Albert Schaufelberger. A guerrilla statement said that Mr Flores, who was shot down in front of the San Salvador University law faculty, had been "executed" as "one of the most reactionary representatives of the Salvadoran bourgeoisie." A member of the Salvadoran legislature, he was a leader of the right-wing "National Conciliation Party" (PCN).

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

Army Attacks in San Miguel

PA160452 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 Mar 84 pp 2, 13

[Text] The Army yesterday launched another attack on the guerrilla strongholds in the northern sector of San Miguel, so that they would not cause problems for the 25 March elections, military sources have said. Troops from the 3d Brigade of the Ponce and Atlacatl Battalions, which are stationed in San Miguel, are participating in this operation. The troops have already clashed with the guerrillas, and the results have been favorable to the Army, which has kept the guerrillas in a single front. A military source said that 33 FMLN terrorists were killed and many were wounded. The exact number of wounded was not available. The Armed Forces suffered 4 dead and 25 wounded.

Last weekend, terrorists kidnapped a group of boys, ranging in age from 10 to 15, in the cantons of El Espinal and San Rafael Cedros, in Cuscatlan Department. Their families fear that these boys will be sent to a revolutionary training school to be taught terrorist tactics. Meanwhile, leftist squads have threatened to kill the residents of Santa Cruz canton, which is located near La Libertad, if they do not abandon the town.

Monterrosa on Operation

PA172232 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1210 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Salvadoran Army units have continued their steady advance toward the villages of San Fernando, Perquin, and Torola.

They have also completely occupied the villages of Ciudad Barrios and Carolina. Civilian residents and rebels have reported that Honduran Army troops remain on the northern bank of the Torola River, especially along the border of El Salvador and Honduras. Those reports were also confirmed by Army officers working in northern El Salvador's San Miguel, Morazan, and La Union Departments. Many of these villages, including Ciudad Barrios, Chapeltique, and Carolina, are completely isolated from what has become a virulent electoral campaign.

Another confirmed report from the area is that U.S. reconnaissance planes are indeed flying over suspected FMLN areas of activity during the early morning hours.

Schools have been closed in many of these villages. In some cases, it is because the teachers have not shown up for fear of the violence that these villages are currently experiencing. In others, it is because the parents have not sent their children to school due to the constant fighting in the northern parts of those departments.

Troops transported by helicopter and infantry unit have been combing northern San Miguel, Morazan, and La Union Departments. We are presently in Carolina, in San Miguel Department. There have been fierce clashes on Miracapa Hill, near Carolina. We spoke with Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander of the troops in eastern El Salvador, about the rate of success and the goals of this counterinsurgency operation.

[Begin recording -- in progress] [Monterrosa] ...to counteract the activities that the rebels are carrying out in these places. As you know there are many subversives in the northern region, especially in San Miguel, La Union, and Morazan. That is why we are sweeping the area in an effort to prevent the large enemy concentrations that occasionally cause us some problems.

[Unidentified reporter] Col Monterrosa, is the current objective of the entire operation to liberate some areas, especially border regions, where the town inhabitants have recently spoken of large enemy concentrations?

[Monterrosa] Well, we might use the word liberate to a certain extent, but above all it is to disrupt, destroy, and capture the rebels in that area. The principal objective, above all, is to scatter them, because, as you said, these areas are points at which the rebels meet to receive instructions for staging their actions. Mostly what we have carried out in this region, in my opinion and according to our information, evaluation, and analysis, has been [words indistinct]. They had planned to stage a large-scale maneuver in this region. They had determined that we had small units in the regions of Ciudad Barrios and Carolina, and they had planned to stage a large action. Therefore, we might say that they have suffered a setback.

[Reporter] So that the Salvadoran people will realize the efficiency of the Armed Forces in this operation, can you tell us, Col Monterrosa, how long this counterinsurgency operation lasted, and second, what are the effective results in terms of casualties inflicted on the FMLN troops?

[Monterrosa] We might say that this is a permanent operation. The San Miguel troops have been here on a permanent basis, going through the region of Ciudad Barrios relentlessly. We have been able to give them a short respite, but it has been short-lived, and they have always been active, because one of the characteristics of this war is that it is on the move. And moving the most in this war can be a decisive factor in determining who has the advantage. Furthermore, there is a principal factor, which is the support of the people. Therefore, this has been a permanent operation--however, on this occasion, we had indications from our intelligence sources that the rebels would stage actions in this area.

We requested the cooperation of our companeros of the Atlacatl Battalion so they could participate with us, making this operation bigger and more successful. Regarding the results, I can say that they have been totally positive, because the FMLN had not planned on such a reaction by us. Therefore, most of the negative results have been on their side. Up to now we have counted more than 30 enemy dead and several dozen wounded, as witnessed by the people who are here. We located some rebel concentrations through our intelligence sources, after they had attacked some of our positions, and their casualties have been numerous. There are reports of some 40 dead, including foreigners. Here in the northern region, for example, there were reports that some foreign doctors were treating the wounded. And there have been more results achieved by the Air Force.

[Reporter] Col Monterrosa, the civilian population indicated that some members of the FMLN high command had been seen on the banks of the Torola River, specifically here in the township of Carolina, where we are today, Thursday. Does the intelligence information available to you indicate who has been using this sector as a corridor?

[Monterrosa] Well, according to the inhabitants, some of the commanders of the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, were here in Carolina. For example, the inhabitants easily recognized [ERP Commander] Joaquin Villalobos, Jonas [not further identified], Ivan [not further identified], and Manolo, which is the alias of Captain Mena Sandoval. I do not know if the inhabitants are listening to me now, but some of the ones that I spoke to said they knew him [not further identified]. This, in fact, has been the principal communications and supply route for them. You know this area is a corridor, and there is also the road junction at La Reina, which lets them move toward the western region, that is, San Vicente, Guazapa, Chalatenango, Cabanas; toward the southern region of Linares and Tres Calles; or in the direction of Sesori, El Triunfo, Jucuapa, and Jucuaran. Therefore, this is a route of interest to them, and the ERP and the FMLN are constantly passing through here. This is what they call the new zone [zona nueva]. Therefore, we are trying to regain control of this region.

[Reporter] To conclude this interview, Col Domingo Monterrosa, some FMLN sectors claim that Honduran and U.S. soldiers are participating in border regions in joint operations with the Salvadoran Army. What can you tell us about this?

[Monterrosa] I really have no knowledge other than radio and other reports by your colleagues to that effect. I can say that I, who am responsible for this region, should have some idea about it, in order to coordinate anything along that line. But thus far I can tell you sincerely that I have no information to that effect. If they are going to be there, I do not know where; and if there were something, we would have to have some sort of coordination. I have learned that Honduran troops of the 10th Battalion were deployed in Sabanetas, but I understand that it was a routine situation, a normal operation to guard the border points, that was all. Other than that, I have no knowledge of any other activity, be it U.S. or the Honduran troops, other than what I have just told you. [end recording]

FMLN Reports Army Losses

PA161946 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people. We will now broadcast information on the operation financed and planned by North American imperialism in this northeastern region of El Salvador. The results of the fighting thus far in northeastern El Salvador are as follows:

During the fighting with the Cuscatlan Battalion at Miracapa Hill, in the vicinity of the town of Carolina in northern San Miguel Department, the Cuscatlan Battalion was dislodged. The fighting in northern San Miguel Department has resulted in 54 wounded and 8 dead. In this battle our antiaircraft fire seriously damaged a North American-made helicopter.

We repeat: The casualties inflicted on Domingo Monterrosa's forces while implementing our policy of striking at and wearing down the enemy battalions was 54 wounded and 8 dead. In addition, our antiaircraft fire hit a North American helicopter, seriously damaging it.

During the fighting with the Atlacatl Battalion at Ciudad Barrios, also on 13 March, our revolutionary forces inflicted 10 casualties -- dead and wounded -- while proceeding with our policy of disrupting, striking at, and frustrating the progress of the dictatorship's battalions.

Results of our fighting with the Atonal Battalion on 14 March are: Our FMLN units went out to stop the Atonal Battalion, frustrating the battalion in its attempt to advance on Cacaopera, in the north, while marching along the southern bank of the Torola River. We inflicted four deaths on the Atonal Battalion in this fighting.

FLMN on Siege of Suchitoto

PA161907 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Attention, attention. The strategic city of Suchitoto is being besieged at this moment by our guerrilla fighters. We repeat: The strategic city of Suchitoto is currently under siege by our vanguard units. As part of our national campaign "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977," units of the [word indistinct] vanguard of the FMLN's Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza and Carlos Arias Battalions at 0100 today, 16 March 1984, launched a fierce attack on Suchitoto, the second most important city in Cuscatlan Department.

Preliminary reports sent to Radio Farabundo Marti from Suchitoto indicate that we have already dislodged the enemy from that city and occupied several enemy positions there. The reports indicate that our heroic guerrilla forces have occupied the La Cruz neighborhood. Attention. They have occupied the La Cruz neighborhood and the sector of the Suchitoto Hospital, positions that were being defended by National Police units. The police post has also been attacked. As of 0900 [10-second break in transmission] five casualties on the National Police. I repeat: We have inflicted five casualties, according to the preliminary information we have received. Three National Police gangsters were killed and two injured.

FMLN: 100 Army Casualties

PA170302 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos will now report on the operation planned by the Gringos for northeastern El Salvador, now in its 4th day. According to reports, the FMLN forces have clashed violently with the dictatorship's troops north of the town of Carolina in San Miguel Department and near Corinto in Morazan Department. Additional clashes have also taken place in other parts of Morazan Department. The reports say that we have inflicted some 100 casualties on the dictatorship's troops. In one of these fights, our forces seriously demaged a U.S.-made helicopter.

The dictatorship has concentrated thousands of soldiers from the Cuscatlan, Atlacatl, Atonal, and Ponce Battalions and other forces in the northeastern zone of El Salvador.

As we reported previously, U.S. aircraft from the Panama Canal have made many reconnaissance flights in the past few days over northeastern El Salvador. At the same time, the Honduran Army, led by General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, a puppet and pro-imperialist lackey, is concentrating its forces on the Honduran border. Meanwhile, U.S. warships are expected in the region and U.S. soldiers are being sent to the border, presumably to watch over the 25 March elections.

We are in a position to announce that after 4 days, Domingo Monterrosa, the military leader of this Gringo operation, has been unable to complete the first phase of the operation. Our plan to wear out the dictatorship's troops has had good results. At this moment, Monterrosa's troops are bogged down. They are in the same situation as yesterday. Our plan is to keep striking the enemy to break their fighting spirit and to defeat them in the first stage of their operation.

We have also learned that the dictatorship has taken all of the necessary steps to allow Honduran and U.S. troops to intervene in our country. Other reports indicate that the relocation of refugees is in progress; we have learned from Honduran military sources that their mission is to evacuate the refugees from Colomoncagua and to establish a military base there. This has been a report on the U.S. operation, described the U.S. Government as the largest ever carried out by the Salvadoran dictatorship in northeastern El Salvador, with U.S. logistic, air, and technological support. This is the situation at the moment for the Gringo military plan, which, we repeat, is bogged down, despite all of the U.S. support that it is receiving.

FMLN: Highways Seized, Mined

PA171428 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Your attention. The FMLN is staging crushing attacks at various places in the country. We report to our people that at this moment the FMLN has seized control of important highways, such as the Panamerican and Coastal Highways and the military route. Our units have mined these highways and at this very moment are fighting with dictatorship troops who are trying to recover the positions held by the FMLN. Imperialism, the North American Pentagon, thought that by massing Honduran troops and by massing North American troops and war materiel in the area it could intimidate our Salvadoran people. This is our response; this is a true expression of our Salvadoran people in the face of the elections planned, financed, and safeguarded by the imperialist U.S. Government.

FMLN on San Miguel Attack

PA171553 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the FMLN Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade General Command in Morazan on 17 March; read by Commander Joaquin Villalobos]

[Text] On 16 March at 2300 battalions of the Commander Lilian Mercedes Letona Northern Group of the FMLN Rafael Arce Zabalh Brigade entered the eastern area of the city of San Miguel.

A battery of 81-mm mortars opened heavy fire on the installations of the 3d Infantry Brigade garrison while our brigade's infantry units attacked the outlying defenses. Other units of our forces entered deep into the city and took positions controlling various neighborhoods. Our forces also attacked the enemy's defensive positions around the city.

Commanders (Eleno Castro), (Mario Mijanjo), Alfredo, (Silvio de Jesus Argueta), and (Roberto Jimenez), members of the general staff of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, are in command of the operations that are part of the action plan that we have named "No to the Electoral Farce; Yes to the Popular War;" and that we will carry out in the framework of the intense actions that are being waged and will be waged by the FMLN throughout the area as part of our plans to advance and deepen the revolutionary war.

On 16 March at 2330 other battalions of the Rafael Arce Brigade attacked positions of the Cuscatlan Battalion near San Luis de la Reina, thus beginning to frustrate the enemy actions in the operation that is being carried out in the northern and eastern parts of the country. As a result of the attacks on the 3d Brigade and positions in northern San Miguel, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa ordered the troops of the Cuscatlan and Ponce Battalions to depart hastily for San Miguel. Col Domingo Monterrosa is going with them. Our units are still fighting with the retreating enemy troops.

At 0300 today, 17 March, sappers blew up the power lines that supply electricity to the entire eastern region. Since early this morning battalions of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade have been in control of the Pan American Highway, the Coastal Highway, and the military road, the three strategic roads of the eastern region. The roads have been mined and our forces are already fighting with enemy troops trying to recover positions on the roads.

The Pentagon and its military advisers and the general staffs of the Honduran and Salvadoran Armed Forces planned joint operations that would enable the Salvadoran Army to get out of its current difficult position of facing defeat and permanent failures. In the first days of March large numbers of soldiers of various units of the dictatorship's Army under the command of Col Domingo Monterrosa began operations in the northern area of Morazan, La Union, and San Miguel Departments aimed at pushing our forces toward the border area where Honduran troops were stationed and where, according to announcements, 2,000 U.S. soldiers were to arrive under the ridiculous pretext that there was no border there and that they would thus guarantee the elections in El Salvador. The main objective of the plan was to push us to the border zone and to force us to get involved in clashes with the Honduran troops in order to weaken and disorganize us so that we could not carry out operations during the electoral period.

Col Monterrosa recently spoke about the success of his plan. We speak with actions. Our forces maneuvered to thwart the enemy plan, and we frustrated, weakened, and held back Monterrosa's units. Thus, just as we had planned, we began our military actions that will show the people that the elections and imperialist intervention are the same thing. We will not be stopped by the threat of Yankee troops. If they thought they could intimidate us, we tell them now that we will further deepen the war before, during, and after the elections. The elections are not only a farce but are a cover for the plan of direct intervention by the U.S. troops.

To our people, the elections are just a mockery and an evident dog fight that not even the North Americans can control. We are not worried about the electoral results.

The U.S. Government is the one that should be worried because it will have to deal with assassins, madmen, thieves, and two-bit politicians who tear themselves to pieces so that the United States and the Army will permit them to participate in and to enjoy political power.

The dictatorship and imperialism have begged for a cease-fire to carry out their farce in peace. We state now that there is no cease-fire, there will be no cease-fire, and we are and will be at war as long as the essential reasons that led to it continue.

There can be no cease-fire just so the dictatorship and imperialism can calmly carry out a political plan that is a cover for intervention. Our heroic people have rejected the farce in various ways and have shown their discontent over the current situation of misery, poverty, and repression, and over the ridiculous role being played by the candidates in their gangster-like struggle for power.

From our trenches of combat and in the framework of the advance of our revolutionary military forces, we greet the more than 25,000 heroic workers who are currently on strike for their just demands. The advance of the popular war and the combative struggle of the workers are the true paths and alternatives for our people. The FMLN fully supports these heroic strikes and reiterates its desire to continue to struggle for the achievement of the workers' immediate and strategic aspirations.

We will continue to deepen the war until we achieve victory, no matter how many electoral farces the dictatorship and imperialism think up. If to persist in the defense of the workers' interests and to struggle to achieve a just and honorable society means that we must face the U.S. troops, we are ready to begin that battle and to achieve victory. Our weapons, which are guarantees for the happiness and well-being of workers, will never be laid down.

Long live the combative struggle of the heroic Salvadoran workers! Long live the heroic and invincible fighters of the FMLN!

Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, mission fulfilled. No to the Electoral Farce, Yes to the Popular War!

[Signed] Commanders Jorge Melendez, Juan Ramon Medrano, Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Ana Sonia Medina, Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Joaquin Villalobos

FMLN: Clashes in San Miguel

PA171642 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] [Words indistinct] indicates that early today, Saturday, fighting was underway at various points in the city of San Miguel, where the FMLN has staged a lightning attack on the dictatorship's most important garrison -- that of the 3d Infantry Brigade. The report adds that when the 3d Brigade's garrison was attacked the dictatorship's forces fired their 105-mm guns indiscriminately at the area of the Obrajuelo strip [pista]. We are waiting for further information, because the indiscriminate shelling of this densely populated area has probably resulted in civilian victims. We also report that during our attack with 81-mm mortars we scored over 40 direct hits inside the 3d Brigade garrison. Over 40 81-mm mortar rounds hit inside the garrison of the 3d Infantry Brigade.

FMLN Alleges Army Censorship

PA180002 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The latest reports from San Miguel reveal that the dictatorship's high command this morning tried desperately to hide the big setback suffered by the high command and by Domingo Monterrosa in that eastern part of the country. The high command ordered the censorship of all information originating from hospitals in the city of San Miguel and banned the Red Cross from releasing information on the number of casualties suffered by the forces of the dictatorship.

We repeat, the dictatorship's high command has tried to hide the big defeat suffered by the 3d Brigade in San Miguel, banning hospitals and the Red Cross from releasing any information on the casualties inflicted on the troops of the dictatorship inside the 3d Brigade headquarters and in the various attacks launched by our infantry units against positions near the 3d Brigade garrison and elsewhere in this eastern sector of the country.

Guerrillas Attack San Miguel

PA171431 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1357 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Exerpts] FMLN guerrillas have staged an incursion into San Miguel, the country's third most important city. The city's civilians report that the guerrillas used rifle and mortar fire to attack the installations of the 3d Military Zone and the security positions in the city of San Miguel. Military sources in the 3d Military Zone have remained silent, indicating that the Armed Forces Press Committee will soon issue a report to the press. Newsmen who are in San Miguel covering the counterinsurgency operations that were begun more than a week ago have indicated that their access to the 3d Military Zone was suspended early this morning. The attacks ended at approximately 0500, and at the same time bus drivers resumed traffic to and from San Salvador.

Since 0600 Army units have been carrying out rapid counterinsurgency operation around the country's third most important city in search of the guerrillas who attacked the main military positions in San Miguel this morning. In San Vicente Department, military units this morning confirmed to this station that guerrillas attacked with rifle and mortar fire the military positions of the civil defense and the National Guard in San Sebastian, 50 km east of San Salvador. The reports indicate that one national guardsman was wounded and a civil defense member was killed. It is also reported that an entire block of houses was destroyed by the mortar fire.

Army on Recent Clashes

PA181436 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Report by correspondent Raul Beltran -- recorded in progress]

[Excerpts]...FMLN in San Luis de la Reina, 8 km from the Honduran border. Details indicate that the Salvadoran Army, supported by the Air Force and artillery, has been continuously bombing presumed rebel positions near San Luis de la Reina since midnight. In other details, military sources in San Miguel reported at mid-day that four civilians had been killed north of the 3d Infantry Brigade based in San Miguel after more than 5 hours of a leftist attack with mortar and rifle fire against the Salvadoran Armed Forces positions known as the 3d Infantry Zone in San Miguel.

The same sources indicated that no less than four soldiers were wounded during the fighting that lasted until early this morning. Meanwhile, traffic on the Pan American Highway remains interrupted.

Other details indicate that Salvadoran Army units are maintaining vigilance and control of the Coastal Highway in Usulutan. Salvadoran Red Cross officials in Santiago de Maria, in the department of Usulutan, have reported that they have not been rendering any emergency service for the moment with regard to the existing condition of a stretch of the Pan American Highway.

After touring several parts of the Republic it is reported in Cuscatlan Department that the situation is back to normal in Suchitoto, 50 km north of San Salvador, after yesterday's serious disturbances. At the same time, it was confirmed from the bus terminal known as point 20, or route 20 as it is called by the Transportation Department, that bus service on the Pan American Highway is reportedly irregular.

Regarding San Vicente Department, in the disturbances that took place in the township of San Sebastian, 40 km east of San Salvador, it was also confirmed to our YSKL reporters by military sources that the left-wing FMLN rebels killed a civil defense member and wounded a national guardsman in an attack this morning. As we reported this morning, in its incursion in San Vicente the FMLN guerrilla attack partially destroyed one block of homes in San Sebastian while part of another was burned. Before leaving, the rebels blew up the installations of the National Telecommunications Administration, ANTEL. The judicial authorities in this capital reported the death of only one soldier at the emergency room of the military hospital.

Army on San Miguel Attack

PA172115 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] This morning we reported that the 3d Infantry Brigade headquarters in San Miguel had been attacked. As we reported, at 0645 today the rebels began the attack using 81-mm mortars and rifle fire. The attack was concentrated on the central headquarters of the 3d Infantry Brigade. Also, according to reports obtained by YSU, left-wing elements entered some sectors of San Miguel, attacking military posts. According to reports from YSU correspondents on the scene and from military sources, the guerrilla attack began from north of the 3d Infantry Brigade headquarters, especially from the hills of (Altamira), (San Jacinto), and El Zamoran. The same reports indicate that the losses were not heavy. We repeat, the leftists attacked the 3d Infantry Brigade headquarters with 81-mm mortars.

Military sources told YSU that Army units captured a vehicle at the turnoff to Moncagua, and that a lot of blood was observed inside. It was also reported that the Army recovered six M-16 rifles. These were supposedly left behind by leftists fleeing toward regions under their control. Reports given to YSU also indicated that one guerrilla was wounded and taken prisoner. He was transferred immediately to the San Miguel Hospital and is in military custody. Another report given to YSU said that a woman was wounded by 81-mm mortar shrapnel when her home was hit by mortar fire.

Regarding the report that the Military, Pan-American, and Coastal Highways have been mined, military sources of the 3d Brigade in San Miguel told YSU that these highways are not mined, and that traffic was returning to normal during the course of the day. The military sources told YSU that vigilance has been strengthened on these highways, and that traffic will soon be back to normal in the eastern region.

We also learned that eight heavy vehicles with trailers, bearing Guatemalan license plates, were set up on the Military Highway to block traffic. The rebels riddled the tires with bullets, preventing the trailers from moving. The attack began at 0045 this morning and ended at 0330 this morning, according to military reports. The leftists retreated toward regions close to the city, and 3d Brigade forces are in pursuit. It was also reported this morning that the township of San Sebastian in the central Department of San Vicente was attacked. Correspondent Jose Alberto Barrea will be sending us a report on this. Military reports also indicated that an Army battalion in San Luis de la Reina was attacked this morning, although no details have been reported.

Civilian sources in Lolotique told us that insurgents have attempted to block traffic from the city of San Miguel to the township of Lolotique, located in the eastern Department of San Miguel. The civilian sources said that FMLN insurgents held a meeting in Lolotique with travelers who had arrived from San Miguel. They also said that many travelers had their personal identification cedulas stolen, thus making it difficult for them to vote on 25 March. This is the expansion of the report given to us by correspondent Marcos Aleman on the eastern region, specifically on San Miguel.

FMLN on Suchitoto Casualties

PA172022 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The Modesto Ramirez Central Front, through combat transmissions equipment of this station, informs our people of the fighting that took place yesterday, 16 March. Our groups of battalions, of Commander Felipe Pena Vanguard Units, in coordination with the Carlos Arias Battalion, began a maneuver at 0030 to wear down the enemy. The neighborhoods of Suchitoto were occupied for 4 hours, and we inflicted 15 casualties, 10 dead and 5 wounded, on the enemy, including national guardsmen and policemen.

On Las Guaras Bridge in Suchitoto we ambushed a company of Detachment No 5 of Cojutepeque, inflicting 29 casualties, 16 wounded, 10 dead, and 3 prisoners of war. In this sector an enemy checkpoint permitted a caravan of newsmen to pass, and later, soldiers of Detachment No 5 ambushed them. This resulted in the death of U.S. journalist John Hoagland of the U.S. NEWSWEEK magazine. The enemy, using its new tactic of transporting its troops by aircraft, took a squad of paratroopers to the northern city of Suchitoto. The troops were unable to reinforce the enemy troops in Suchitoto or the ambushed detachment. Throughout yesterday's actions the enemy used two A-37 aircraft extensively, as well as two push-and-pull aircraft and eight troop transport helicopters, concentrating their actions near Suchitoto and El Tablazo canton, indiscriminately bombing the civilian population. We stress that the fighting encompassed a theater of operations including Las Guaras, Guayabal, Suchitoto, and all of the new highway, that is an area of 10 kilometers. The enemy casualties numbered 45, dead and wounded. The war material seized includes one M-80 machine gun, five G-3 rifles, seven M-16 rifles.

United to fighting until final victory, revolution or death, we will win.

FMLN Claims 76 Army Casualties

PA171306 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Attention, Salvadoran people. As a result of attacks by members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade from 15 to 17 March, we have inflicted 76 casualties on the Atonal, Cuscatlan, and Atlacatl Battalions. In addition, we damaged a U.S.-made helicopter.

FMLN on Suchitoto Clashes

PA182001 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] FMLN sapper units today blew up several energy towers between San Rafael Cedros and eastern El Salvador, thus leaving large zones in eastern El Salvador without power. Meanwhile, in northeastern El Salvador, Domingo Monterrosa failed, as did imperialism's plans. In the central part of the country, our army has been dealing blows at the puppet army. Here is the report received from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Cuscatlan Department, zone of Suchitoto, where our battalions dealt a blow to the dictatorship's troops: Throughout the 16th forces belonging to an FMLN group of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza and the Carlos Arias Battalions staged a vast military maneuver in Cuscatlan Department. At 0100 our units launched an attack on enemy positions in the city of Suchitoto. The attack consisted of a siege that lasted until 1200. During that siege our units fulfilled their goal of entering the city and seizing La Cruz neighborhood, after dislodging the enemy from there as well as from the [name indistinct] Building and the health center. They also attacked the National Police post. House-by-house fighting occurred while the dictatorship's Air Force planes dropped rockets and bombs on the area around the city of Suchitoto, with no concern for the civilian population. Our battalions' military maneuvers fulfilled their goals of harassing and exhausting the puppet army's troops. According to preliminary reports received at this station on these actions, in Suchitoto we inflicted 19 casualties on the dictatorship, one of them a corporal. We also took six prisoners of war.

In addition, during clashes involving our battalions in Calle Nueva, near Tecomatepe Hill, and (Chanques), Las Guaras Bridge, and La Campana Hill, we inflicted numerous casualties on imperialism's puppet troops. During these actions our revolutionary army seized from the dictatorship 10 rifles, an M-60 machine gun, abundant ammunition, medicine, and other military supplies.

GUATEMALA

LABOR LEADER RECOVERING AFTER ATTACK AT EMBASSY

PA162108 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Labor leader Alvaro Rene Sosa was in a private hospital tonight, recovering from the bullet wounds that he sustained in an attack yesterday in front of the Belgian Embassy in this capital. Sosa sought refuge there while under heavy pursuit by his attackers. It has been reported but not confirmed that Sosa is in charge of disputes for the Guatemalan bottling company that held the Coca-Cola concession. Coca-Cola recently suspended its operations in Guatemala.

HONDURAS

ARMY SPOKESMAN DENIES ARRIVAL OF U.S. TROOPS

PA161650 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa — The Armed Forces yesterday denied that 2,500 U.S. soldiers are being airlifted from Panama to the Honduran-Salvadoran border. An Armed Forces spokesman, who asked to remain unidentified, said that he knew nothing about the U.S. ship America coming to Honduras with U.S. troops. "In any case, the presence of any U.S. troops in Honduras would be within the terms established to undertake new military exercises," he said.

Asked if the soldiers who might be arriving would be watching over the development of the elections in El Salvador, he said: "The exercises are normally held away from the border areas." Nevertheless, the spokesman said that there is no information on new joint exercises. "They are still in the planning stage," he said. "The general staffs are reaching agreement," he indicated. He did not deny however, that the U.S. military presence, which has been detected in Santa Rosa de Copan, is due to preparations for the "Grenadier I" exercises. "It has already been stated that the "Grenadier I" exercises will take place in western Honduras," he said.

He said that the Armed Forces public relations office "cannot advance anything concerning the exercises." He indicated that the relocation of Salvadoran refugees to the Olanchito area "has nothing to do" with the maneuvers.

Regarding alleged Honduran troop mobilization to the Nicaraguan border, the military spokesman said that "the personnel protecting the border are the only ones there," adding that there has not been an increased military presence. He said that the Honduran Army is not cooperating with the counterrevolution. He explained that "they (the contras) state in their war reports that they are fighting inside Nicaragua."

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA HITS U.S. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

PA172130 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, participated last night in the "Face the People" program held in the (Rene Cisneros) neighborhood. Earlier, the Government Junta coordinator had participated in the official dedication of two youth centers and three (?community) centers in the (Rene Cisneros) and Jorge Dimitrov neighborhoods, along with Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, the minister-director of the INSSBI [Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute], and members of the cabinet. Toward the end of the "Face the People" program, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra commented on several topics, taking some time to explain the worldwide crisis:

[Begin Ortega recording] The economic crisis is being felt in all of Latin America, and this is a disadvantage to us too, because this crisis is affecting us also. And apart from this economic crisis, there is a government in the United States that is an enemy of the Nicaraguan people and revolution. Everything that this government does is aimed at harming the Nicaraguan people, the economy of the Nicaraguan people, the lives of the Nicaraguan people.

What does all this mean? That we cannot solve all of our problems overnight. But here there has been some advancement because all of you are owners of land in this neighborhood, where before you could not even dream of owning land. Previously land was very expensive in this neighborhood, and only the wealthy could afford to build houses here.

A companero here was asking about the political parties that have withdrawn from the State Council. These parties have not withdrawn permanently; they have withdrawn temporarily. This is normal. It is just a manner of expressing political attitudes. Suddenly they have withdrawn. Of course, this is an immature attitude, and they are not acting in a responsible manner.

I would like to ask what has been (?commented upon) by these political parties? What has been commented upon by church leaders who claim to be concerned over the situation in the country? Are they making statements against the crimes that are being committed against the people? Are they saying anything about this? No, they are not.

Recently someone was saying that the problem is that we Nicaraguans are killing one another, and that we should stop doing this. Someone who wears religious clothing said this, and I would like to ask: Are we really killing one another? Who is murdering those children? Who killed that little girl on the border with Honduras? Did we kill her? Or was she killed by the criminals who are attacking us from Honduras?

Who killed and wounded those children on the border with Costa Rica? Did we kill them? Who killed them? The counterrevolution killed them, and we all know this very well. We know where these attacks are coming from, but there are some people who do not dare condemn these attacks, and consequently they become accomplices in these attacks. They become criminals, too, because they are helping to murder the children of Nicaragua.

And this is the great policy of the U.S. Government: to murder the children of Nicaragua. They have just approved $21 million to continue murdering the Nicaraguan people. [end recording]

DANIEL ORTEGA WARNS U.S. AGAINST C.A. INVASION

PA181552 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Excerpt] An invasion of any Central American country would be tantamount to an invasion of Central America, Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, JGRN, has said. The revolutionary leader urged the Nicaraguan people to understand that when the U.S. Government says it does not invade, that means, in fact, that it does. Commander Ortega said that the Nicaraguan people are struggling against the Somozist guardsmen and Yankee imperialism, which uses the guardsmen as instruments. The Sandinist leader accused the U.S. Administration of killing many children and destroying rural children's centers in Nicaraguan territory. Imperialism is using weapons against Nicaragua similar to those used to assassinate the Vietnamese people, he charged.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS ATTACKS TO U.S.

PA162347 Paris AFP in Spanish 2238 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 16 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaragua today blamed the United States for the attack that anti-Sandinist forces carried out on Wednesday against a town on the border with Costa Rica. During the attack an 8-year-old child was killed and four other people were wounded. In a note addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry protested to the U.S. Government "for this latest criminal action carried out by mercenary forces at your service."

The attack occurred early Wednesday morning at the San Jose settlement, 6 km from the community of Azucena, in the border Department of Rio San Juan. A woman was also wounded during this attack and two anti-Sandinists were killed. In Managua it was said that the raid was carried out by followers of Eden Pastora, one of the leaders of the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), who tried to carry out "a mass kidnapping of peasants."

The Foreign Ministry communique protested to the United States about its request for $21 million for "covert actions against Nicaragua," and warned that "the final use for those funds is to continue the campaign of terror and death against the Nicaraguan people." Meanwhile, the Voice of Nicaragua, an official radio station, called the versions broadcast by the Honduran media "lies," saying that anti-Sandinist forces occupied the town of Rio Blanco, Matagalpa Department, 270 km north of Managua. The radio station said that it is false that this community had been "liberated" by the anti-Sandinists and that, according to its correspondent, the residents of the area are continuing their daily routine as usual.

Rio Blanco and Matiguas were targets for rebel raids last week when FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] forces tried to occupy them. It is believed that at least 1,400 anti-Sandinists have been operating for the past few days in the mountain areas of Matagalpa Department and in Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, and Zelaya, in northeast Nicaragua. Heavy fighting has been reported in this area since last week.

REPORT ON U.S. MOVEMENTS NEAR C.A. COASTS

PA181615 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S. aircraft carrier America will reach the Central American coast this weekend, bringing 85 war planes and 2,500 U.S. soldiers. Meanwhile, the U.S. frigate Blakely and two modern U.S. Coast Guard vessels are also carrying out the naval operations, called "Confidential Mission." Also, John Strachan of the U.S. military forces announced in Honduras that spy planes are flying over El Salvador every night.

SHELL FRAGMENTS ALLEGEDLY LINK U.S. TO ATTACK

PA180107 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] German neurosurgeon Carlos Valzeti, who was entrusted with the care of the 5-year-old boy Ezequiel Villalta, one of the victims of the counterrevolutionary attack in Rio San Juan, told this newscast that while he was performing surgery on the boy he found three fragments of rubber shrapnel embedded in his brain. This disclosure by the German physician, who works at the Antonio Lenin Fonseca Hospital, is extremely important because it is known that during the Vietnam war the U.S. Army used shells with rubber shrapnel, which cannot be detected with X-rays. Because they are not extracted, they cause the individual to die. So once again there is evidence of the direct participation of the U.S. Government in the dirty war that it has declared on the Nicaraguan people and their revolution, with the appearance of these sophisticated weapons in the hands of the Somozist counterrevolutionaries who attacked the San Jose settlement in Rio San Juan Department a few days ago.

MINISTRY DENIES BORDER LANDMARKS ALTERED

PA181746 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Foreign Ministry communique issued on 16 March]

[Text] A campaign has begun in Honduras in the past few days charging alleged displacement and disappearance of landmarks along the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, making groundless accusations against our country.

To prevent the continued manipulation of the Honduran people, the Nicaraguan Government has designated a special commission to investigate the false charges, which are part of the anti-Nicaraguan campaign promoted daily in the sister republic of Honduras by the enemies of peace.

Furthermore, it is possible that these alterations did occur and represent new actions by the mercenary forces, directed by the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, which have been established in Honduras to provoke new conflicts between these countries. The Nicaraguan Government, therefore, rejects as false and unjustified charges that it has altered the border and expresses its willingness to cooperate in any way to clarify this situation.

COUNCIL PASSES 155-ARTICLE ELECTORAL BILL

PA171457 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] After functioning under an electoral law drafted in 1923 by a Mr Dodds, a U.S. citizen, and imposed on Nicaraguans, the State Council yesterday approved the electoral bill before hundreds of students, workers, and representatives of mass organizations. This act of historical importance for our people was witnessed by members of the diplomatic corp accredited in our country. The electoral law, which was the subject of heated debates for 16 days, will allow the Nicaraguan people to participate for the first time in free, pure, and direct elections for president and vice president of the Republic and the 90 members of the national legislative assembly. This is the first time that our people, represented by political parties and workers, peoples, religious, and professional organizations, have participated in drafting an electoral law of a pluralist nature. The 155 articles of the new electoral law represent a broad spectrum of the country's representative sectors.

The State Council yesterday voted that the president and vice president of the Republic will be sworn in by the national legislative assembly's president, who will present them with their credentials. According to Article 150 of the electoral law, the president of the Supreme Electoral Council will preside over the national legislative assembly preparatory session, will revise the credentials of the members of the assembly, and will call roll. The national legislative assembly's president will swear in the members and will preside over the session of the first board of directors.

The inauguration of the president and vice president and the installation of the national legislative assembly will take place on 10 January 1985, according to Article 152. The electoral law will go into effect the moment it is published in any news medium.

CERNA ALLEGES CONTRA STRATEGY TO HIT ECONOMY

PA180347 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

["Excerpt" of speech by Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Lenin Cerna, head of the Nicaraguan General Directorate of State Security, on 16 March, place not specified; broadcast in progress -- recorded]

[Text] ...of the current situation, so as to increase the awareness of what we are going to have to face. We are witnessing a period of escalation, and we do not know when it will end. This escalation is meant to wipe out the Sandinist Revolution, to wipe out what they consider a bad example for the peoples whom they have subjugated, to wipe out the heroic actions of the Sandinist people.

At this time, thousands of men have begun to infiltrate our territory from different points of our northern border. This indicates that in spite of all of the efforts of our National Directorate and Revolutionary Government, imperialism is still bent on achieving its objectives. Imperialism is afraid to interfere openly. Nevertheless, it has the material available to carry out another type of war. Thousands and thousands of dollars are being spent to destroy machinery and ruin our crops -- in short, to adversely affect our country's economy.

At the southern end of the country, the men of the traitor Pastora are carrying out their brilliant actions against our people by killing peasants and children. And all of this is part of a strategy of terror that we have denounced on earlier occasions. What they would like to do is to spread terror so as to [words indistinct] and to make the people afraid to face them. These actions are also aimed at breaking the will of those who are uncommitted, and at promoting diversionary activities inside the country, which is all part of their strategy to undermine the stability of the revolutionary state. Each sector plays a specific role in this strategy, which is designed to harm us. There is a role for the rightist political sectors, one for the mercenaries of the National Guard, one for the uncommitted sectors, and one for the corrupt sectors -- for these can be found in any situation.

The next few months will be very difficult for our revolution and for us. [words indistinct] due to the plans that they have made, and the difficulties that we are experiencing in the economic sector, such as the problem of our products costing less and our imports costing more. Along with these difficulties, there is that strategy that we have been talking about -- the strategy that is aimed at destabilizing our economy and at taking advantage of all the mistakes that have been made, because we have to admit that we do make mistakes. We have to admit this to be able to correct these mistakes. This, therefore is the situation that we are going to face, coupled with the counterrevolutionary activities in the interior of the country.

MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED IN VARIOUS AREAS

Rebels Kill 3 Peasants

PA160400 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] An ANN dispatch yesterday reported that three Nicaraguan peasants were killed and their homes burned in the attack on the Copalar region, northeast of Matagalpa Department, that was staged on Sunday by a group of 100 Somozist counterrevolutionaries. ANN cited reliable sources as saying that the Somozist counterrevolutionaries attacked the town of Copalar on 11 March following a frustrated attempt to occupy the town of Rio Blanco in Matagalpa Department. According to the same source, Sandinist People's Army [EPS] soldiers have been searching for the counterrevolutionaries since Monday. It is believed that there are more than 100 of them and that they are heading for Honduras. Yesterday the EPS continued to chase the counterrevolutionaries, who may be 40 km northeast of Copalar in northern Zelaya, the ANN source added.

'Somozist' Attack Noted

PA160123 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, a group of mercenaries and former Somozist guardsmen launched an indiscriminate attack on the civilian population of San Jose, a peasant settlement near La Azucena in Rio San Juan Department, killing one child and wounding four more.

A 5-year-old boy named Ezequiel Villalta received both head and body wounds and was urgently taken to the Luis Fonseca Hospital this morning; the doctors described his condition as critical. Health Minister Lea Guido, acompanied by Deputy Health Minister Ivan Tercero, went to see the patient and has ordered that every effort be made to save the boy's life. A 3-month-old baby and a 7-year-old girl were also the victims of the bloodthirsty counterrevolutionary criminals, who operate from Costa Rica. Both were flown to Managua this morning to receive medical attention. One witness to the cowardly attack said that 15 men and women were kidnapped by the counterrevolutionaries, who, in addition to killing 1 child and wounding 4 others, killed a woman named Maria Picard de Espinoza. A week ago, the former Somozist guardsmen, with support from the Honduran Army, launched an attack from Honduras on San Pedro del Norte, a border town in Chinandega Department, using mortars and machine guns. A 1-year-old child was killed as a result. We cannot believe that these attacks could be perpetrated by goodhearted human being. They can only be the acts of beasts. Our people should show more interest in learning about incidents of this kind and should assess their real significance, because incidents like these must be rejected and condemned by every peace-loving human being. We would like to see governments and various organizations take action to keep the Reagan administration from asking Congress for more money, for millions of dollars, to be used to cause further pain and mourning for our people. We are asking the opposition parties to participate in a dialogue for reconciliation, so that we can stop these beasts from committing further crimes.

ARDE Reports Clashes

PA161615 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 193 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 15 March]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free people of the world:

1. On 1 March, the General Francisco Estrada Column of the Colmillo 5 Unit, under the command of Companero (Balaso), began a cleanup and [word indistinct] operation in Nueva Guinea. At 1400 it clashed with the enemy in [name indistinct], located southwest of Nueva Guinea, inflicting three dead on the enemy which, in the face of our firepower, withdrew.

2. On 3 March at the same site, the same column, under the command of experienced Companero [name indistinct], ambushed a column of the interventionist army at 0500, inflicting (?28) dead on the occupation army, which withdrew.

3. On (?8) March at the same site, the same column, under the command of brave and experienced Companero [name indistinct], attacked from the front and sides a detachment of approximately 200 men. The fighting began at 0830 and lasted about 3 hours. In the face of the fighting spirit of our forces, the enemy withdrew, leaving 38 dead. We suffered two injuries, Companeros Pedro Torres and Andres Granados, who were taken to the nearest field hospital where they are recovering and are out of danger. We lost Companero Tana, who was wounded and taken by the enemy.

4. The General Francisco Estrada Column of the Colmillo 2 Unit, under the command of Companero Diablo, staged an ambush in the same area of [name indistinct]. It attacked a column of the pro-Soviet army, inflicting nine dead and six wounded.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

FDN Claims Control of Valley

PA170411 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 62

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) announced last night that its forces are in full control of the San Francisco Valley, in the jurisdiction of Talpaneta, in Madriz Department, after heavy fighting with Sandinist People's Army forces. The announcement indicated that the antigovernment forces pushed some 500 Sandinist soldiers from the valley, following attacks by several FDN patrols in which 15 soldiers were killed. The fighting in the San Francisco Valley lasted over 10 hours; the rebels ambushed reinforcements sent from Managua on three separate occasions, forcing them to retreat in disarray. The FDN reported that the rebels suffered 3 dead and 5 wounded, while seizing a large amount of ammunition and 12 AK-47 rifles. The government forces, on the other hand, suffered heavy casualties, the report added. The rebels continue to advance inside Nicaragua, now controlling large sections of the northern departments, which they consider "liberated territory" and which the Sandinist troops dare not enter. Three months ago, the FDN said that once its liberated territory was consolidated, it could promote the creation of a provisional government, after which it would ask for intervention by the Central American Defense Council.

ARDE Claims Naval Successes

PA171747 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 194 released by the General Command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 15 March]

[Text] The Domingo Antonio Giron Column of the Virca Unit led by Commander Roberto, while on a mission to cut the supply lines and prevent the strengthening of El Castillo fort, on 12 March at 0610 detected a tugboat loaded with supplies and fuel 500 meters below Sombrero de Cuero Island, 8 km from the previously mentioned military post, and ordered the military crew to halt. When the crew refused to obey, they were attacked with rocket and rifle fire. The four crewmen were killed, and the damaged tugboat was dragged away by the current. At the same time, a squad of the same column led by Companero Manuel detected a boat with military personnel of the occupation army that is repressing our people at Huerta de Palo, 10 km west of El Castillo fort, and attacked it with RPG-7 rocket launchers and M-79 grenade launchers, destroying the vessel and killing all its occupants. Our squad immediately placed mines, which at 0900 that same day destroyed a boat that was docking and which belonged to the occupation Army. The premature explosion of one of the mines alerted enemy forces, who immediately returned to their base of origin.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

ARDE Reports 34 Enemy Killed

PA171814 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 16 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 195 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 16 March]

[Text] 1. The General Ramon Raudales Battalion of the Jaguar 1 Unit, led by Companero Segoviano, clashed with pro-Soviet army troops for more than an hour in Barrio Martela, Rio San Juan Department, on 13 March at 1400 hours, inflicting 20 dead on the enemy, including the commander of the patrol.

We sustained the loss of Companero Juancito, while Companeros Pedro Valle and Tocuyo were wounded.

2. On 15 March at 0510 the Mauricio Sanchez Column of Unit 9, led by Companero (Arcol) which operates in Rivas, engaged in combat with troops of the interventionist Army that is repressing our peoples, in Santa Amalia, 32 km northwest of Cardenas village, inflicting 14 dead and several wounded on the enemy. We sustained one casualty, a wounded companero who was taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Defense Ministry Reports Clash

PA181801 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry yesterday announced that [words indistinct] of traitor Eden Pastora were annihilated the day before yesterday in a clash between Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops and a group of counterrevolutionaries in Cano El Amparo, southeast of Nueva Guinea. Two EPS members were killed in the approximately 4-hour-long battle defending the people's revolutionary achievements, the Defense Ministry concluded.

Pastora Force Said Defeated

PA180025 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar

[Text] Los Angeles, Nueva Guinea -- Following 2 days of heavy fighting, EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops and reserve battalions managed to break up a task force of the traitor Eden Pastora that came from Costa Rica. During the clashes in (Comarca La Letra) in Nueva Guinea the enemy suffered a considerable number of casualties, including 10 dead and many wounded. Following the clashes, our troops took off in hot pursuit of the remaining counterrevolutionaries who fled in disarray.

Deputy Commander (Irving Davila), chief of the EPS 53d Brigade, said that in addition to sowing terror and killing our peasants indiscriminately, the forces that came from Costa Rica tried to deceive our peasants by giving them counterfeit dollars. He also called on all the peasants who joined the enemy, enticed by lies and false promises, to voluntarily turn themselves in and take advantage of the amnesty decree issued by the Government Junta in December of last year and extended on 21 February.

FDN: Chinandega Base Attacked

PA172146 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) has staged a mortar attack on an important military base in the region of Chinandega, causing numerous casualties among the Sandinist ranks, the rebel organization today announced in Tegucigalpa. The FDN war report indicates that "special commandos" attacked the Villa Nueva base, located 45 km northeast of the city of Chinandega, with mortar fire on the morning of 13 March. The base was defended by 1,500 Sandinist soldiers.

According to the rebels, the base, which serves as a military training center, was "seriously damaged," as were several armored vehicles, antiaircraft weapons, and other artillery pieces emplaced in the area. The FDN claimed that after the attack the Sandinist troops "abandoned the base and fled toward the township of Villa Nueva, located 2 km from the garrison." According to the insurgent group, the Sandinist casualties were so heavy that the Nicaraguan Army had to use "trucks" to transfer them to the city of Chinandega.

The Sandinist authorities in Managua have not thus far reported such an attack, and the 19 de Julio radio station, which transmits from Chinandega, denied to AFP today that any base in the region had been attacked by counterrevolutionary forces.

BRIEFS

COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES -- The National Assembly of Political Parties has appointed four representatives to the National Council of Political Parties. They are from the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Social Christian Party, Independent Liberal Party, and the FSLN. The State Council and the Government Junta next week will appoint their delegates. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 84 PA]

FRG HEALTH BRIGADE -- An FRG brigade of volunteer physicians and health technicians this morning arrived in Managua to serve in several places in Nicaragua. This mission's visit is part of the solidarity with Nicaragua movement. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Mar 84 PA]

GOVERNMENT, NICARAGUA DENOUNCE U.S. AGGRESSION

Declaration Issued

FL171404 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The Cuban Government has released a declaration in which it expresses total support for the denunciation by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, in which he pointed out the dangerous increase in aggression in Central America by the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the increase in the possibility of military intervention against the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan peoples.

The Cuban Government's declaration denounces the imperialist acts of aggression against Nicaragua, especially the mining of that country's harbors, which recalls a similar brutal act committed by imperialism against Vietnam during the war in that Indochinese country, which was considered then, as it is now, an outrageous violation of international law and an attack on the right of free navigation, which not only violated the sovereignty of the country against which it was committed, but also endangered the lives of hundreds of crew members of the merchant fleets of many countries and caused irreparable material damage to the fleets.

After emphasizing that the responsibility for this event rests on the Government of the United States and its puppets, the declaration of the Cuban Government appeals for the help of the Contadora Group and adds: Those who keep Central America on the brink of military intervention, those who place mines in Nicaraguan harbors and waters are acting against the spirit and intentions of Contadora. They should be detested and a response should be found to stop their criminal actions.

Elsewhere the declaration states: The Cuban Government, as a member of the Nonaligned Movement, is certain that Nicaragua will likewise find solidarity with the forces which, through this movement, have maintained a persistent search for international peace and respect for the national rights of the peoples. The declaration concludes: At the UN, Cuba will join the necessary condemnation of the Reagan administration and its policy of intervention and criminal attacks.

Ortega's Message Cited

PA180034 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Nicaragua has denounced the dangerous intensification of U.S. aggressive military intervention in Central America and the Washington policy which is increasing the chance of a direct military intervention against the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan peoples.

The Salvadoran patriotic forces have also denounced the dangerous concentration of U.S. troops near the El Salvador-Honduras border. The FMLN yesterday urgently appealed to the public to fight the invading troops, and also revealed plans for a large-scale counterinsurgency operation coordinated by the Salvadoran, Honduran, and U.S. Armies.

The situation created by the United States near the Honduran border with Nicaragua and El Salvador is extremely tense and dangerous. Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, pointed out the gravity of the situation in a message read to the entire nation. The message was also sent to heads of state and to government, international, political, and solidarity organizations all over the world.

The Nicaraguan Government document gives an account of the attacks suffered by Nicaragua since Ronald Reagan became U.S. president, and points to the fact that there has been a dangerous increase in the use of technical-military methods in the planning and implementation of these terrorist operations. In addition, the document reports that an apparent attempt to stage a trade blockade against Nicaragua is already under way.

Nicaragua notes that these incidents coincide with the deployment of thousands of U.S. troops in Honduras and of U.S. warships off the Central American coasts. This threatening display of force comes only 5 months after the U.S. military invasion of Grenada.

The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction notes that the 82d Airborne Division, which participated in the U.S. invasion of Grenada, is the same one now being deployed in the Honduran-Salvadoran border area.

Nicaragua once again charges that the U.S. Government is increasing the prospect of a military intervention in Central America. It also says that in this sense, the U.S. Government is harming the Contadora Group peace efforts and encouraging the warlike feelings of those who oppose a political solution to the Central American conflicts and the forces in Honduras that are seeking a war with Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan message, which is also directed to the American people, demands that Washington immediately withdraw its troops and war materiel that have been sent to Central America. It also calls for an end to all attacks against Nicaragua and demands that the U.S. Government work toward a quick and reasonable political solution to solve the Salvadoran crisis.

The message, which was read by Daniel Ortega, encourages the Nicaraguan people to continue preparing and strengthening themselves to confront and defeat imperialist intervention. The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction asked other governments of the world to provide Nicaragua with the technical and military means that the Nicaraguan people need to defend themselves from the state terrorism unleashed by the U.S. Government. Finally, he reiterated the Nicaraguan Government's determination to continue institutionalizing the revolution and strengthening democracy. He pointed out that Nicaragua's peaceful nature and its people's determination to defend the country's sovereignty are inexhaustible.

PRESIDENT OF ANGOLA ARRIVES FOR VISIT

Invited by Castro

FL161341 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], will arrive in Havana tomorrow, Saturday. He has been invited by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Havana citizens will bestow a warm welcome to the delegation from the brother country of Angola at Jose Marti International Airport.

Welcomed at Airport

FL171820 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1716 GMT on 17 March carried live coverage of the arrival of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport.

Cuban television announcer Mar lo Ortega, speaking over a still photo of Dos Santos, said that Dos Santos' plane would arrive in a few minutes.

An establishing shot showed the terminal building of Jose Marti International Airport. Crowds were waiting on the observation platforms and a banner on the building read: "Welcome President Dos Santos."

The picture then cut to an airplane, identified by the annouer as IL-62 Aeroflot carrying Dos Santos, which land at 1723 GMT. Cuban President Fidel Castro was then shown walking toward the airplane.

The airplane's door opened at 1727 GMT and Dos Santos descended, followed by his delegation. Castro greeted and embraced Dos Santos and then greeted the other members of the delegation. Castro and Dos Santos were then shown walking along the runway and standing at attention as a military band played the Cuban national anthem. The announcer identified the next march as the Angolan national anthem and while it was being played a split screen shot showed Dos Santos and the Angolan flag.

Castro and Dos Santos then walked toward an honor guard. They stood at attention as a military officer presented the honor guard to Dos Santos. Castro and Dos Santos then shook hands with a line of people identified by the announcer as members of the Cuban Politburo, Central Committee, and military, and members of the diplomatic corps. As Castro and Dos Santos greeted the dignitaries, the crowd was heard chanting: "Cuba, Angola: United we will conquer." Castro and Dos Santos stood at attention on the runway as the honor guard passed in review playing the Cuban national anthem.

Castro and Dos Santos were then shown entering a black limousine. which immediately drove away with two other cars.

No speeches were broadcast. Live coverage ended at 1744.

MONTANE MEETS WITH VISITING TANZANIAN OFFICIALS

FL160200 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Jesus Montsane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Central Committee Secretariat, today met with Adam Sapi Mkwawa, speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, who is visiting our country. Also present in the meeting were several members of that country's National Assembly and its secretary, (Valees Azola), as well as officials of the International Relations Department of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government and the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department.

The meeting was held in a warm and fraternal atmosphere in accordance with the relations of friendship and solidarity existing between the peoples, parties, and governments of Tanzania and Cuba.

MALMIERCA STOPS IN SPAIN, MEETS WITH MORAN

For Madrid reportage on Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca's stopover in Spain, including his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran to discuss compensation for Spaniards whose property was confiscated after the revolution and the Cuban Government's possible acceptance of Basque Homeland and Liberty members expelled from France, see the Spain section of the 19 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

DELEGATION RECEIVED BY GDR DEPUTY MINISTER

FL162056 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] GDR Deputy Culture Minister Klaus Hoepcke today received in a special audience the Cuban delegation which will participate in the Book Fair being held in Leipzig. Rene Roca, head of the Cuban delegation, termed the meeting as cordial and productive for the two countries' interests.

The editorial relations between the two countries began in the 1960's. Roca noted the importance of a Cuban exhibit in Leipzig in which the more important publishing houses of our country, "Letras Cubanas," "Ciencias Sociales," "Casa de las Americas," and "Ediciones Union" are participating. He also referred to the development of the Cuban revolutionary literature and the interest it has awakened in the contemporary editorial world, pointing out the works by Guillen, Carpentier, Noel Navarro, and Fernandez Retamar.

ICRT PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL161630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, ICRT, has ended a working visit to Czechoslovakia to attend a 2-day meeting of organizations of radio and television of socialist countries. At the end of this meeting, the participants noted that their talks will result in greater cooperation among radio and television stations -- one of the topics emphasized during the meeting.

WOMEN'S DELEGATION RECEIVED IN PRAGUE

FL160156 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation of Cuban women headed by Isabel Jomarron, party Central Committee member, has been received in Prague by Marie Kabrhelova, member of the Secretariat of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and chairman of the Czechoslovak Union of Women.

Kabrhelova and her Cuban guests discussed matters related to cooperation. They agreed on all matters discussed related to international politics. During the meeting it was stressed that the basic reason for the increase in world tension is the aggressive policy of the United States and its NATO allies.

AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

PA180047 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to Ecuador Carlos Zamora Rodriguez will present his credentials to Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea on Tuesday. The ceremony, which will take place during the morning at the government palace, will also be attended by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez.

Zamora Rodriguez was appointed Cuban ambassador to Ecuador following the announcement by the two governments in January that diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level had been reestablished. The Ecuadoran Government has appointed Eduardo Santos Alvite as its ambassador in Havana.

CEMA INSTITUTE MEETING CLOSES; TRENDS NOTED

FL161457 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The 12th meeting of the International Social Economic Problems Institute held at Havana's Palace of Conventions has ended with the signing of a final protocol.

Experts and specialists from CEMA member countries participated in this meeting which is held once a year and was held this year for the first time in Cuba. The participants conducted studies on seven reports, one from each country.

At the closing session the experts said that there was a common trend throughout the socialist countries of increasing worker participation in economic planning and management.

GARCIA FRIAS CRITICIZES RAILROAD MANAGEMENT

FL171848 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the Politburo and minister of transportation, has criticized negative aspects of the management of the railroads, which so far this year have lost more than $2 million pesos. Speaking at the national emulation plenary for 1983, which was held in Holguin, Garcia Frias said that those deficits were mainly caused by railroad accidents, the majority of which were due to negligence, which must be eliminated. He said that equipment damaged in such accidents is subsequently repaired through sacrifice of workers who do their best to put the equipment back in service.

Alfredo Suarez, secretary general of the National Transportation Workers Union, called for the conversion of the deficiencies that limit activity into achievements that benefit the population. He congratulated workers in the industry who had achieved vanguard status and added that the movement of outstanding workers to which they belong would serve as a stimulus to increased efficiency in the railroad industry.

DPRK AMBASSADOR NOTES ROK REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE

PA170444 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Pak Yong-ae, the DPRK ambassador to Cuba, has commented during a press conference in Havana on the ROK regime's refusal to take part in tripartite talks to achieve the reunification of that Asian country. Pak Yong-ae said that at the beginning of this year his country's government approved a proposal to invite the ROK regime to participate in talks between the United States and the DPRK to eliminate regional tension and to achieve peace and an independent, peaceful reunification. This proposal was rejected by Seoul.

The diplomat reiterated his country's willingness to negotiate for peace and demanded the withdrawal of the 42,000 U.S. soldiers stationed in the ROK.

FRENCH CP OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN C.A.

PA180204 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The French Communist Party [PCF] has come out against any foreign military interference in Nicaragua and El Salvador and called on the international community to express solidarity with the Central American countries. In a statement published by the Parisian newspaper L' HUMANITE, the PCF described the reports from that Latin American region as very worrisome. It added that the strengthening of the Yankee military forces in Central America heightens the threat of intervention against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran people. It noted that the international community and each government should take measures to ensure that the escalation of forces is halted so that a negotiated solution will prevail in the Central American conflict. It urged that a nationwide solidarity movement be formed in France and the rest of the world so that the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean can live in liberty and peace.

HODDING CARTER CITED ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

FL152230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2103 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Hodding Carter, former U.S. presidential spokesman, has declared that despite President Ronald Reagan's statements, conditions do not exist in El Salvador for free, just elections. In a commentary published today by the WALL STREET JOURNAL, the former spokesman of the Jimmy Carter administration asserts that the 25 March elections will not result in a democratic government taking power in El Salvador because of the atmosphere of official terror that exists in that country. Any leftist candidate who attempted to run for office would surely be assassinated, Hodding Carter adds, pointing out that the Salvadoran Army is led by officers who are proud of their butchering of defenseless men, women, and children.

In his commentary, the former U.S. presidential spokesman predicts that more U.S. support for El Salvador will only evoke more repression and less democracy.

FMLN DENOUNCES SALVADORAN ELECTION PROCESS

FL161906 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The FMLN has said that the Salvadoran electoral process is a means of controlling the population and that it has repressive purposes. The FMLN added that the tabulating system used by the regime and operated by the U.S. experts reveals the composition of Salvadoran society as a whole. This data will allow the regime to exercise reprisals against those who do not vote and it will reveal the number of young people available for forced recruitment into the military.

TWO POLITICAL OFFICERS KILLED IN EL SALVADOR

PCN Member, 2 Others Dead

PA170111 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Salvadoran deputy Hector Tulio Flores, a member of the rightist National Conciliation Party, was shot to death by unidentified people. Meanwhile, the bodies of two workers who were murdered by the death squads were found in a San Salvador neighborhood.

Flores is the third Salvadoran deputy killed this year. Earlier this year Roberto Ismael Ayala of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party and Arnoldo Poll of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance were killed.

Press reports state that in view of the failure of a massive counterinsurgency operation in which [3-second break in transmission] the Salvadoran regime has increased its intense bombings of large areas east of San Salvador and in Cuscatlan Department. The FMLN has reported that the Salvadoran regime's recent operations have failed, and announced that electricity is still lacking in Usulutan Department due to the destruction of three high voltage towers on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran teachers have begun a strike for better wages, the release of all politicial prisoners, lifting of the state of emergency, reopening of the national university, and other demands.

Electoral Coordinator Killed

PA170406 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Tito Abelberto Rosa, retired, was gunned down while traveling in his car through El Hogar neighborhood in San Salvador. According to some reports, he was the coordinator of the rightist Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party's electoral campaign in Cabanas Department.

Deputy Hector Tulio Flores of the National Conciliation Party, another rightist party, died yesterday in similar circumstances.

Other reports state that in view of the failure of a gigantic counterinsurgency operation involving 5,000 soldiers, the Salvadoran regime has intensified its large-scale bombing of extensive parts of eastern San Salvador Department and of Cuscatlan Department.

In statements to the newspaper EL DIARIO DE HOY, General Jose Alberto Medrano, one of the founders of the Salvadoran paramilitary groups, revealed that the creation of these groups in Central America was promoted in the 1960's by the U.S. Government. Medrano, former chief of the Salvadoran National Police, was the founder of the first death squads that appeared in his country [3-second break in transmission], which were created following a meeting held by U.S. President John Kennedy with the heads of state of the Central American regimes in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Medrano also said that presidential candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson showed great professionalism when he was made director of ANSESAL [National Security Agency of El Salvador], the parent organization of several of the terrorist groups currently operating in El Salvador.

DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT RUMORED IN GUATEMALA

PA162123 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Rumors of a possible diplomatic incident between Belgium and Guatemala have spread in San Jose, Costa Rica, after three unidentified men shot a young man who sought protection in the Belgian Embassy in Guatemala City. The victim, a man between 25 and 30 years of age, was able to reach the embassy, which later made arrangements to send him to a private hospital.

HONDURAN CP LEADER ON MANEUVERS, U.S. POLICY

PA182129 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Interview with Rene Solis, member of the directorate of the Communist Party of Honduras, PCH, by correspondent Pedro Ernesto Martinez Pierz; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] First of all, it would be interesting to get a comment from you on the U.S. decision to advance the military maneuvers to be held in Honduran territory.

[Solis] As is known, U.S. imperialism has been staging joint maneuvers with the traitorous puppet army that is currently misgoverning our country together with Suazo Cordova's party. These will be their third set of joint maneuvers, called "Big Pine," and they have moved them up from July to May. The specific purpose in moving them forward, in our opinion, is to accelerate plans for aggression against the Sandinist people's revolution and the real possibility of imperialist intervention in El Salvador. It is clear, and they know perfectly well, that the Salvadoran oligarchy will be defeated by the Salvadoran people, and that the only alternative left to the Salvadoran reactionary oligarchy is intervention. We know that a large amount of military equipment has been arriving at ports on the northern coast of Honduras, principally Puerto Cortes. We also know that this military equipment is basically destined for the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands that are attacking the sister people of Nicaragua and also serves to supply the oligarchic Salvadoran Army.

[Martinez] It is obvious that Honduras has become a large U.S. military bastion in Central America and has been completely intervened militarily. It is an occupied country, invaded by U.S. Armed Forces. There is also talk of political interference being exerted in Honduras through the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tegucigalpa. I would like you to comment on this.

[Solis] Yes, the Yankee proconsul John Dimitri Negroponte and (?his supporters) have been very active in the past few weeks in Tegucigalpa. The reason for this agitation was the shattering into a thousand pieces of the formerly majority Liberal Party, which served as a social basis for the current traitorous government of Suazo Cordova and Alvarez Martinez. There are various factions within the Liberal Party. Some are fighting over the bone cast to its dogs by the Yankee boss, while others are trying to vindicate the honor of the betrayed Liberal masses. This bitter struggle prevents the Liberal Party from continuing as a basis for the aggressive plans of imperialism in our country.

Therefore, the Americans have taken up the task of reunifying the National Party forcefully and arbitrarily. This to us signifies the reactivation of an old and traditional alliance formed by the Yankee embassy, the ultraright-wing sectors of the Army, and the National Party. The figure they have chosen for the reunification of the National Party is the former chief of state, famous for having been removed due to an apocryphal memorandum that obliged him to attack and repress the people, General Juan Alberto Melgar Castro. He really does not represent any political force in the country, much less within the National Party and is being used to forcibly reunify the party.

The objective, of course, is clear. It is to present this party as an alternative for change in view of the disastrous Liberal administration and to reimpose and continue what our people have endured for years. The truth is that neither the National Party nor the current [Liberal Party] candidate Jose Azcona del Hoyo [word indistinct] who is trying to pose as an alternative for change, has anything to do with our people's interests. Both represent interests that are foreign to the best traditions of struggle and the genuine interests of the Honduran people.

NICARAGUA PROTESTS CONTRA ATTACK FROM COSTA RICA

FL162222 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2106 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has presented an energetic protest to the United States for the attack on the town of San Jose by a group of mercenaries in the service of Washington.

The note sent by acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Victor Hugo Tinoco to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz states that on 14 March counterrevolutionaries from Costa Rica attempted to carry out the mass kidnapping of all the inhabitants of the town of San Jose. It adds that settlers and members of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces tried to detain them but the mercenaries eluded the civilian population and opened fire against the defending forces.

The Nicaraguan note states that as a consequence of the aggression, one child was killed. It also protests Ronald Reagan's request for additional funds for the mercenary groups that are attacking Nicaragua.

CONTRAS FROM HONDURAS ATTACK NICARAGUAN PEASANTS

PA182133 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Some 100 counterrevolutionaries from Honduras killed 3 Nicaraguan peasants and set fire to their homes in Copalar, in Matagalpa Department. According to press reports, the counterrevolutionaries attacked the village of Copalar after they failed to seize Rio Blanco, on the border between Matagalpa and northern Zelaya.

According to other reports from Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has issued a communique denying that the Sandinist Government ordered either the moving or removal of the border markers on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, stressing that this assertion is part of a defamatory campaign designed to manipulate Honduran public opinion.

It was also announced that the Nicaraguan Government has sent a protest note to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over the recent attack on the Nicaraguan settlement of San Jose, an action carried out by mercenaries at the service of Washington who came in from Costa Rica.

Meanwhile, 13 military and civilian officials were sentenced in Nicaragua to prison terms ranging from 2 to 26 years for various crimes committed in late 1983 against the residents of Pantasma, in Jinotega Department.

NONALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU ON NICARAGUA

FL161316 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1203 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] It has been learned that the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement has urgently requested that foreign military maneuvers, the installation of foreign bases in Central America, and aggression against Nicaragua be stopped. Yesterday the bureau held an emergency meeting to hear a report by Nicaraguan Permanent Representative Javier Chamorro on recent events in the region, in accordance with the mandate on the region passed by the Seventh Nonaligned Summit which met in New Delhi, India.

DIPLOMATS IN NICARAGUA CONCERNED OVER U.S. MOVES

FL161750 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Managua -- Diplomats here have expressed concern over a Nicaraguan report on the danger of U.S. troops and warships being moved to Central America.

Soviet Ambassador German Shlyapnikov stated that the entire international community is going to condemn the provocative acts by the United States in the region.

DPRK Ambassador (Chi Sun-yong) said his position was always with that of the Nicaraguans and that he was ready to assist Nicaragua in any way he could -- morally as well as materially.

Spanish Ambassador Luis Cuero called the request for military aid serious and very important, a petition which would be considered positively and closely by all countries that defend, seek, and sponsor peace.

Mexican Ambassador Augusto Gomez Villanueva said: We are again facing a new escalation of violence resulting from pressures from those who want a military confrontation in Central America.

NICARAGUAN STATE COUNCIL APPROVES ELECTORAL LAW

PA180311 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan State Council has approved the Electoral Law that regulates the entire process of the 4 November 1984 elections. In five sessions, which began on 22 February, 163 articles were approved, which is five more than were contained in the original law presented by the commission charged with drafting it.

Roberto Arguello Hurtado, president of the Supreme Court, has said that at month's end the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will be installed, thus beginning another electoral phase in Nicaragua.

Other reports from Managua indicate that the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction accepted the resignation presented by Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy. In his letter of resignation, Godoy said it was incompatible for him to remain as minister while dedicating himself to the electoral campaign.

Media Articles Approved

PA180043 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan State Council has approved the Electoral Law articles on the use of radio and television for political party campaigns. Following a long discussion that ended last night, eight other articles were also approved. They have become part of the Electoral Law.

The Sistema Sandinista Television Network will provide a total of 15 minutes daily for electoral campaign purposes. The total time will be equitably distributed among the various parties and political alliances taking part in the upcoming elections.

The Council decided that state-controlled radio stations will provide up to 30 minutes a day for the same purpose. The time must also be equitably distributed.

Commercial radio stations, except the religious ones, which are not allowed to broadcast political propaganda, may freely allot a maximum of 30 minutes to each political group.

18,000 MORE WORKERS JOIN SUGAR INDUSTRY STRIKE

FL161950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1905 GMT 16 Mar 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 16 (CANA) -- Industrial action in Guyana's sugar industry spread today when about 18,000 more workers went on strike, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) said.

A union spokesman said five of the 10 sugar factories had stopped grinding, and cane cutting operations had been crippled. The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) acknowledged there was a strike but declined comment on its effects on the industry.

GAWU had issued a 72-hour ultimatum Monday calling for a settlement in the dispute between the corporation and the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE). About 1,200 workers represented by NAACIE went off the job March 5 to back demands for the implementation of a court order awarding salary increases last October.

GAWU said yesterday that the strike was also in protest against a bill to amend the country's labour relations laws and give the government sweeping powers. The bill was being debated in Parliament today.

At peak production, the sugar industry here employs about 27,000.

GAWU's communication officer James Dastajir told CANA about 75 percent of its membership came out in response to the union's strike ultimatum. Dastajir said GAWU has 21,000 members in the sugar industry, but only 17,000 are holders of membership cards.

In a statement he said "GAWU joins with other working class organisations in fighting against this anti-working class legislation (bill). Notwithstanding the dangers of this bill, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) did not find it germane to discuss the implications of it at its last meeting on Wednesday of this week. In the meantine, the strike in the sugar industry will continue until the union finds it appropriate to call off or adjourn," he said.

The sugar industry, which is the second major foreign exchange earner, has set a first crop target of 79,000 tons, of which just more than 46,000 tons had been achieved by yesterday.

The action called by NAACIE is continuing with little or no sign of a settlement. Union General Secretary Nankisore Gopaul today repeated charges of intimidation by the corporation but did not go into details. Gopaul said that the management has been recruiting scabs to undertake the work of its members who "were adamant in their demands for the implementation of the court order of October 4, 1983, under which they are entitled to wage increases."

NAACIE has a membership of 1,200 in the sugar industry, with the other union in the industry, the Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors Union (GFFSU), representing 500 workers. The GFFSU has instructed its members not to undertake any work performed normally by the NAACIE categories of workers, as a form of solidarity.

A prolonged strike in the industry can have disastrous repercussions for Guyana's economy at a time when the nation has a foreign debt of 700 million U.S. dollars.

GAWU: 6 Sugar Factories Closed

FL171632 Bridgetown CANA in English 1545 GMT 17 Mar 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 17 (CANA) -- A sixth of Guyana's 10 sugar factories has been forced out of operation by a strike by nearly 20,000 workers, the powerful Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) reported today. GAWU, 18,000 of whose members yesterday joined 1,200 striking sugar workers from the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), said it is demanding payment of court awarded pay hikes to NAACIE members employed by the state-owned industry.

James Dastajir, GAWU's communications officer, said the two unions were also pressing government to withdraw a controversial labor relations bill now before Parliament.

Dastajir said that in the case in which the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) has resisted paying increments retroactive to mid-1979, the Court of Appeal had ruled on October 4 in favour of sugar worker Seeram Teemal, a member of NAACIE, and this case was taken and accepted by counsel for the corporation as one which applies to all the members of the union.

He accused the Ministry of Manpower of refusing to meet with NAACIE and GAWU to have the matter clarified. "Instead the ministry has introduced the Labour Amendment Bill 1984, an iniquitous piece of legislation, which seeks to give unlimited power to the Trade Union Congress and which contravenes the International Labour Organisation Convention on Freedom of Association, and protection of the right to organise," Dastajir said. The bill would give government wide powers, including authority to set pay hikes and enter into collective agreements with the TUC on behalf of public workers who may already be represented by a union.

A spokesman for GUYSUCO acknowledged that only some of the factories were grinding, but declined to give details. The official however said most sugar cane estates had been hit by the strike, started by NAACIE workers March 5.

GAWU says it represents 21,000 sugar workers, 17,000 of whom hold membership cards. The other union speaking for workers in the industry is the small Guyana Field Foreman and Supervisors Union with a membership of about 500.

The sugar sector employs about 27,000 workers at peak periods and is second only to bauxite as a foreign exchange earner here. Government has projected sugar earnings this year at 281 million dollars (one Guy dollar; 27 cents U.S.).

WPA CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT UNION LEGISLATION

FL161430 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] In Guyana, the Working People's Alliance [WPA], a small political party opposed to the government, criticized legislation that would allow the Guyana Trade Union Congress to bargain in place of recognized unions for public employees. The Working People's Alliance said recognition won by these unions would effectively be abolished if the proposal becomes law. The Working People's Alliance called the legislation a clumsy move by the government to bypass a ruling last October by the Guyana Court of Appeals that an employee of the government-owned Sugar Corporation was entitled to salary increases dating back to 1979.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FOREIGN MINISTRY HOLDS TRADE TALKS WITH ROMANIA

FL161504 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 10 Mar 84 p 1

[By Saul Pimentel]

[Excerpt] According to the Foreign Secretariat, high-level officials of the Dominican Government have held talks with representatives of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the possibility of trade with that country. The Foreign Secretariat said in a press release that talks on the matter took place on Thursday [8 March] at noon and that Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert; Dr Milton Messina, economic adviser to the executive branch; Dr Orlando Haza, technical secretary of the Presidency; and Eduardo Tejera, director of the Dominican Center for the Promotion of Exports, had participated. The Romanian Government was represented by its Ambassador to Costa Rica, Nicolas Turturea, and Panamanian businessman Ivan Serra, who is Romania's trade representative for Central America and the Caribbean. According to the press release, the talks dealt with "the possibility of exchanging sugar, coffee, cacao, and other basic Dominican products for industrial goods manufactured in Romania such as vehicles, different types of machinery, and other items."

SURINAME

UDENHOUT ATTENDS OAS MEETING IN WASHINGTON

FL161450 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The Surinamese Premier Win Udenhout is at present in Washington for the meeting of the Organization of American States. He's had talks with Secretary of State Shultz and other American leaders. He also had a meeting with the Brazilian foreign minister. He is due to meet officials of the International Monetary Fund from which Suriname is hoping to get a loan of $100 million.

SURALCO, BILLITON TO MERGE SOME ACTIVITIES

FL161425 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The two bauxite companies in Suriname, Billiton and Suralco, are to merge some of their activities to save costs. Billiton, which is part of Shell, is to take a 45 percent interest in Suralco's aluminum refinery. Suralco, a subsidiary of the American Alcoa, will remain responsible for management of the plant. Billiton's (Overduct) Bauxite Mine and Suralco's Paranam Mine will be merged. The companies say that this is bound to lead to some redundancies but it is not known how many.

10 TO STAND TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY, ARSON

FL161455 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] In Suriname, the trial will open on 5 April of a group of people arrested in November on charges of conspiracy and arson. It is thought that 10 people have been accused, but no exact figure has been given. The chief suspect is a Hindustani with a Dutch nationality.